## Malacañang warns of tough measures vs foes

STORY BELOW, COLUMN 2

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BALANCED NEWS, FEARLESS VIEWS

TUESDAY, JANUARY 16, 2001 ★ 30 PAGES 3 SECTIONS VOL.16 NO. 39 ₱15

## Narvasa defends PNB loan to BW

BY ROCKY NAZARENO

FORMER Chief Justice Andres Narvasa, President Estrada's chief legal counsel, yesterday confirmed that he was the chair of the Philippine National Bank (PNB) when it granted a P600-million loan to BW Resources Corp.

But Narvasa said that the loan obtained by

NARVASA/ A13

### WHAT'S INSIDE

▨ **2 foreign groups eye Equitable**
BUSINESS / B1
▨ **SEC to charge BW brokers**
BUSINESS / B1
▨ **San Mateo folk defy TRO**
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NEWS/ A5

# Peso falls to 52.40 vs dollar

## Traders cite fears of unpopular verdict in Erap impeachment trial

BY CLARISSA S. BATINO

**THE PESO yesterday plunged to a new record low of 52.40 to the US dollar, pressured by fears of an unpopular verdict in President Estrada's impeachment trial, a further cut in the central bank's overnight rates and weak regional currencies.**

The peso opened at 51.85 to the greenback at the Philippine Dealing System, hit 52.15 at noon and finished at its intraday low of 52.40.

Traders said there was a growing concern that the President had enough support in the Senate to escape with an acquittal that, in turn, could spark more unrest and deepen instability.

"There's a pent-up demand for the dollar and a weaker sentiment on the peso, basically on the political scenario plus the fact that the central bank might cut overnight (borrowing) rates further to 12 percent which is bad for the peso," a foreign bank trader said.

Volume rose to $134.13 million on Monday from $99.6 million on Friday when the peso closed at 51.59. The previous low of the peso was recorded on Jan. 2 after a series of bombings in Metro Manila.

Yesterday, police detonated a bomb near a Light Rail Transit station in Manila, triggering a buying frenzy in the financial market.

Traders said banks short on dollars joined the scramble for the greenback as exporters held on to the US currency.

"The bomb caused panic but the underlying concern is still political uncertainty brought about by the impeachment trial," a trader said.

Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas Governor Rafael Buenaventura admitted that domestic concerns

PESO/ A4

## Key prosecution witnesses leave RP for 'safety'

BY CATHY C. YAMSUAN

A SOURCE close to the family of impeachment witness Clarissa Ocampo confirmed yesterday that the Equitable PCI Bank senior vice president had left the country, even though airport immigration authorities said they had no record of any recent departure of either Ocampo or fellow bank legal counsel Manuel Curato.

In a phone interview from the United States last night with ANC television, former Finance Secretary Edgardo Espiritu said he would "definitely" return to the country despite death threats, and offered to further testify against President Estrada.

House prosecutors could not agree yesterday on Ocampo's whereabouts. While Rep. Wigberto Tañada—who was appointed Ocampo's custo-

KEY/ A13

Kung tunay kang lalaki humarap ka sa korte!
AYOKO NAYKO!
BISTADO KA NA!
ALIS KA NA!
ALYAS JOSE VELARDE
ESTRADA, J.E. aka Asiong, Erap GUILTY

STUDENTS of St. Scholastica's College in Manila give President Estrada the thumbs-down during a rally outside the Senate where the impeachment trial is being held. ERNIE SARMIENTO

## Estrada used carrot, stick on me–Yasay

BY MARTIN P. MARFIL
AND JULIET L. JAVELLANA

WHAT President Estrada could not get from Perfecto Yasay with a stick, he dangled a carrot so that he would clear Dante Tan of BW Resources Corp. of insider trading and stock manipulation.

Yasay, former chair of Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC), yesterday testified at the impeachment trial that the President had issued a death threat when Mr. Estrada announced that he was filing a case of economic sabotage against him.

Economic sabotage carries the death penalty.

But Yasay disclosed that the President had even offered him a seat in the House of Representatives at the height of the investigation of the BW Resources scandal.

The former SEC chair also testified that:

- He received eight death threats.
- Last month, before Christmas, a bag was thrown into his house prompting him to report

ESTRADA/ A13

## Contradictory statements pinned on death threats

BY RAUL J. PALABRICA

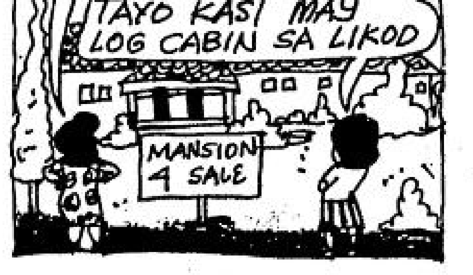
**ANALYSIS**

EXCEPT for his explanation on why he gave contradictory statements on the pressure allegedly made to bear on him by President Estrada on the investigation of Dante Tan, there was nothing new that former Securities and Exchange Commission Chair Perfecto Yasay Jr. said during his cross-examination.

Yasay's questioning by lawyer Raul Daza was a virtual repeat of his forgettable cross-examination of lawyer Ruben Almadro, erstwhile head of the Compliance and Surveillance Group of the Philippine Stock Exchange.

Daza appeared to be improvising along the way in searching for possible holes in Yasay's direct testimony. On several instances, Daza was

CONTRADICTORY/ A13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## *Is 'exodus' sign of an exit plan?*

BY DONNA S. CUETO

WANTED to buy: retirement home outside the Philippines, the more rooms the merrier, mansion preferred.

An opposition member looked into his crystal ball yesterday and concluded that impeached President Estrada was preparing to leave the country to live in "comfortable retirement" abroad with his mistresses.

"The exodus of his mistresses and friends is a sign that Mr. Estrada is now

IS EXODUS/ A4

### DANGER AHEAD

## Palace warns of tough measures vs foes

MALACAÑANG will impose tough measures if opposition groups take the law into their own hands to protest President Estrada's possible acquittal by the impeachment court.

Acting Press Secretary Michael Toledo issued the warning yesterday, a day after Manila Archbishop Jaime Cardinal Sin urged the people "to keep up the good fight" to force the President to step down.

Asked what Malacañang would do to assure tourists and investors in a post-acquittal scenario, Toledo told reporters: "The government will definitely enforce the full extent of the law to ensure that there will be no lawless violence or anarchy or chaos in the streets."

He said the Estrada administration had always respected the rights of individuals and maintained the freedoms of speech and of expression, including allowing street protests.

However, Toledo said, "there are responsibilities that are attached to these rights," and "one of them is to respect the rights of others."

In an interview with radio station dzRH, Ernesto Maceda, the President's spokesperson on the impeachment case, said he found it "disturbing" that leaders of the Catholic Church and opposition groups had issued calls for an Edsa-style "people power" revolt in the event that the court voted for acquittal.

PALACE/ A4

JOSEPH EJERCITO ESTRADA
JOSE VELARDE
GUILTY

ANTI-ERAP protesters march on Roxas Boulevard on their way to the Senate. DENNIS SABANGAN

## All set for 'People Power II'

BY CHRISTINE AVENDAÑO,
CARLITO PABLO
AND NORMAN BORDADORA

A NATIONWIDE general strike, a boycott on taxes and crony firms, and other non-violent protest actions would be launched if President Estrada were acquitted at his impeachment trial, according to the Kongreso ng Mamamayang Pilipino (Kompil).

Militant groups led by the Estrada Resign Movement (Resign) and the Bagong Alyansang Makabayan declared they would "reclaim" power from the President through a "People Power II."

Dinky Soliman, an organizer of the multisectoral Kompil, said its plans were based on three scenarios. Of the first, she said: "We want to believe we can (achieve) the miracle of conviction, and we will work for that."

Soliman said the second scenario was acquittal, in which case Kompil would intensify protest actions and at the same time protect "democratic space" to guard against expected retaliatory moves by the Estrada administration.

She said that to prepare for the third scenario, the entry of extremist groups, Kompil would develop its intelligence and military networks and continue to dialogue with "sympathetic" police and military personnel on the principle of civilian supremacy.

ALL/ A4

## *Second* FRONT PAGE

ANG BAHO NAMAN NG USAPAN NILA !!

# Aventajado cries 'double-cross'

BY HAZEL P. VILLA
*PDI Visayas Bureau*
AND MICHAEL LIM UBAC

**SAN JOSE, Antique—Flagship Projects Secretary Roberto Aventajado, tasked to resolve Manila's garbage crisis, has accused local government officials of Antique of "double-crossing" him and the Metropolitan Manila Development Authority over the Semirara landfill project.**

"Some politicians gave us the assurance that they will help us and when there was opposition, they left us holding the bag," Aventajado told the INQUIRER Sunday night.

He added that he and the MMDA would not have considered Semirara Island in Antique as the site of the Interim Integrated Waste Management Facility were it not for the Certificate of Willingness issued in March 2000 by the Antique officials.

He identified the officials as Antique Gov. Exequiel Javier, Caluya Mayor Nikita Frangue, Barangay Alegria chair Judy Paguia and Barangay Semirara chair Reynante Lim.

### Antiqueño's suit

Meanwhile, Antique citizens said yesterday they would charge Aventajado and MMDA chair Jejomar Binay with violation of environmental laws before the Ombudsman for insisting on turning Semirara into Metro Manila's dumpsite.

Lawyer Andres Xavier Fornier, counsel for the United Antiqueños Against Garbage Dumping, told reporters yesterday that Binay and Aventajado could be held liable for violation of Republic Act 7586, otherwise known as the National Integrated Protected Areas (Nipas) Act, since Semirara Island is considered as a marine turtle sanctuary.

Aside from Binay and Aventajado, Antiqueños also plan to press charges against dumpsite developers RII Builders and the DM Consunji Inc. before the Antique Regional Trial Court, according to Fornier in an interview shortly after yesterday's Court of Appeals hearing in Manila on the legality of setting up a dumpsite in Semirara.

Fornier said the Nipas Act, which provided for the establishment and management of protected areas, also protected marine sanctuaries.

### Marine sanctuary

Fornier pointed out that the whole island had been declared a marine turtle sanctuary. He said even the famed Boracay Island in Aklan, which was 15 nautical miles from Semirara, could be adversely affected if government insisted on dumping metro's daily wastes in the island.

"The law is very clear—particularly Section 20—that prohibited acts include dumping of any waste products detrimental to the protected area or to the plants, animals and inhabitants therein," Fornier said.

"They can be imprisoned for what they're doing. We are filing criminal charges against the concerned officials with the Ombudsman and also against the private firms or persons with the Antique RTC so that Consunji will be arrested," he said, adding that the charges would be filed this week.

Elaborating on the "double-cross," Aventajado said, "We wouldn't have gone there were if not for the Certificate of Willingness. We didn't even know there was a Semirara Island," said Aventajado.

Javier revoked the Certificate of Willingness on Dec. 22, saying what he approved was only a permit to conduct a project study for the viability of the garbage disposal plan.

# San Mateo residents seek TRO vs dump's reopening

THE GOVERNMENT of San Mateo yesterday filed a temporary restraining order against the use of the sanitary landfill in their town, but judges at the regional trial court have reportedly refused to accept the petition.

Robert Aventajado, secretary for flagship projects, yesterday appealed to protesting San Mateo residents to allow the dumping of garbage at the reopened landfill beyond the eight-hour allowable period to help rid Metro Manila of garbage within 10 days.

At the same time, Malacañang assured the San Mateo residents that the landfill would be used only until April 15 and "not a second longer."

Acting Press Secretary Mike Toledo said that after this date, other alternative sites would be used.

He disclosed that a site near Clark Airbase in San Fernando, Pampanga, and another near the border of Tarlac and Pampanga provinces were being considered.

"We are trying to seek all possible legal avenues to stop the use of the San Mateo landfill, but the tentacles of the government seemed to have preempted our action," said Ely Kasilag, spokesperson of the United Homeowners Association of Antipolo (A-Homes).

San Mateo Mayor Crispin Santos acted as petitioner, naming as respondents Robert Aventajado, secretary for flagship projects, and Jejomar Binay, chair of the Metro Manila Development Authority, as respondents.

The respondents were cited for violations of a memorandum of agreement they signed in 1998, which provided for the closure of the San Mateo landfill by the end of 2000.

"If the court will deny our motion, we will have no choice but to return to the streets and put up a barricade. We just hope that the police dispersal does not become violent," Santos said.

Residents of Antipolo City are also considering asking for a temporary restraining order from an Antipolo court, said Porthos Alma Jose, A-Homes president.

The landfill site is located on the Antipolo and San Mateo border. The dumpsite, which started operations in 1991, has since expanded from 15 hectares to the 75 hectares of land it now covers.

Protesting Antipolo City residents continued throwing stones at the garbage dump trucks passing through Marcos Highway on their way to the landfill, injuring at least 20 drivers and garbage disposal helpers. *Agnes E. Donato, TJ Burgonio and Donna S. Cueto*

## NEWSBRIEFS

### Rizal leaders gave nod–Lim

INTERIOR Secretary Alfredo Lim yesterday maintained that as he said in his report to Malacañang, Rizal officials had agreed to the temporary re-opening of the San Mateo sanitary landfill. Lim said the agreement was reached after his three-hour meeting on Sunday with Rizal Rep. Victor Sumulong, Vice Gov. Ben Felix, Antipolo City Mayor Lito Gatlabayan, and San Mateo Mayor Crispin Santos.

He said the lease officials allowed the landfill to accept Metro Manila's garbage for three more months starting yesterday until April 15.

Garbage trucks from various points in Metro Manila will be allowed to dump garbage in San Mateo from 9 p.m. to 5 a.m. only, he said.

### Payatas folk up in arms

PAYATAS residents are again up in arms against the local government of Quezon City after Mayor Ismael Mathay Jr. failed to close the controversial dumpsite on the deadline the residents had earlier set.

Members of the Kalipunan ng Damayang Mahihirap (Kadamay) and the July 10 Payatas Victims' Organization (J10PVO) vowed to mount a series of protest actions this week to stop dumping operations at the dumpsite—site of the tragic garbage avalanche that killed over 300 people.

"Time is already up for Mathay. We've given more than sufficient time to close this killer dumpsite. Payatas should have been closed by 5 p.m. last Saturday," said J10PVO chair Delia Badion in a statement.

### Cutting garbage by 80%

FORMER Speaker Manny Villar yesterday called for the full implementation of the Solid Waste Management Act passed by the House of Representatives last year to reduce the amount of garbage produced by the country.

"This proposed law has the potential to cut down garbage output by as much as 80 percent in the long run and solve the garbage crisis we are facing," Villar said.

The bill, he said, proposes a recycling-based waste disposal program that will make it mandatory to segregate waste at the local level. He had warned that the "gargantuan garbage problem" threatens public health if not immediately solved.

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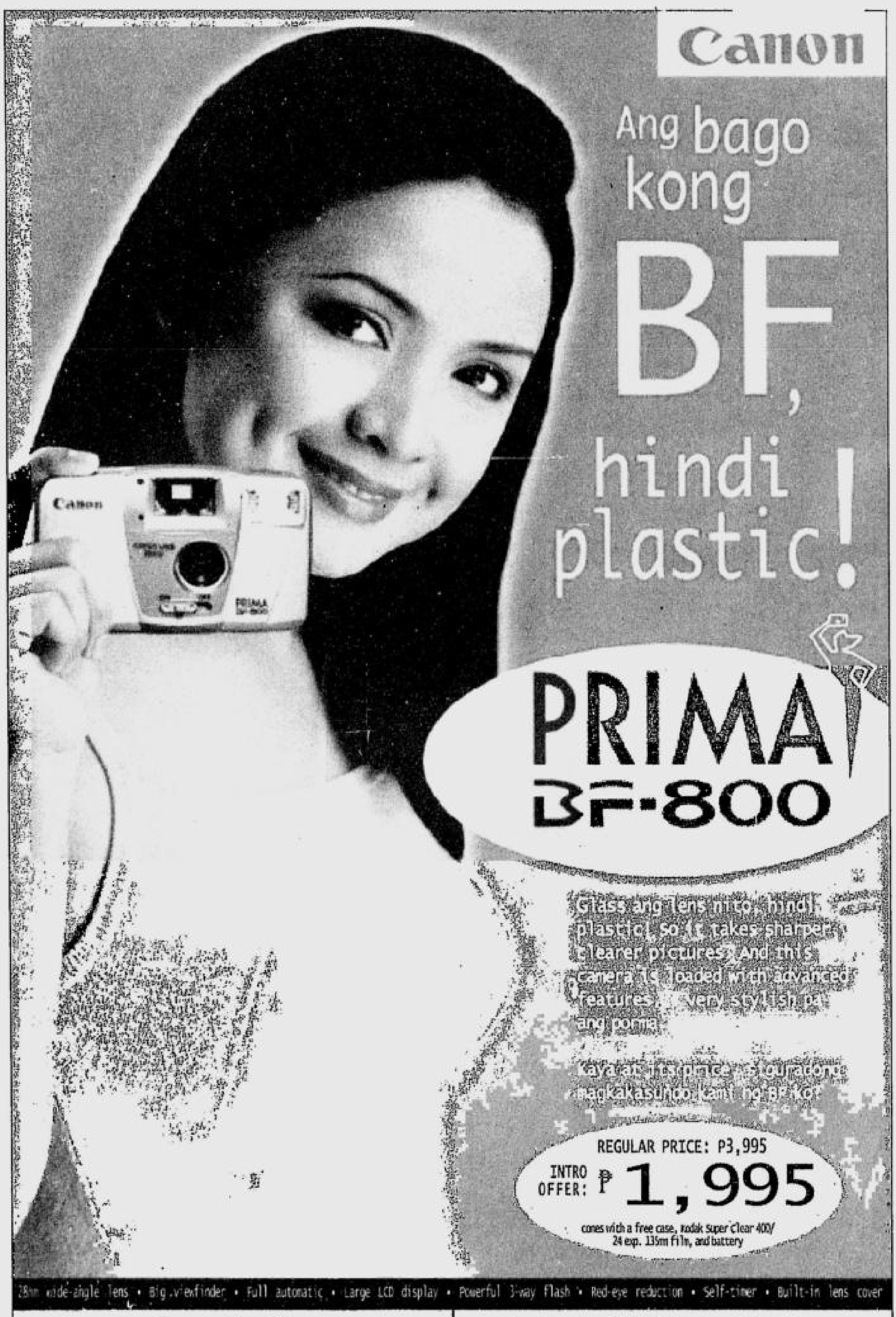
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# Maceda has ₱2-B 'war chest'–Lakas

By Christine Avendaño

THE POLITICAL opposition claimed yesterday presidential spokesperson Ernesto Maceda was given a P2-billion budget by President Estrada to fund operations aimed at building up the chief executive and discrediting groups opposed to him.

Lakas-NUCD national executive director Joey Rufino, citing a Malacañang source privy to the matter, said that the operations funded by the budget included last week's rally by pro-Estrada groups at Ayala in Makati City and the mammoth prayer-rally held at Rizal Park in November last year.

The budget also funded and continue to fund a political and media campaign to vilify the opposition calling for the resignation or the conviction of Mr. Estrada, Rufino said.

Maceda for his part yesterday accused the prosecution panel of using the impeachment trial as a forum to "spread black propaganda" directed at the President and not as a venue for seeking the truth.

# Pro-Erap solons assail Sin, priest

ONE of President's allies in the House yesterday publicly complained about the homily delivered by a Catholic priest on Sunday, which he said "misled" the faithful into blaming the flight of investments from the country on President Estrada's political crisis.

Quezon Rep. Danilo Suarez called for a press conference just to express his disapproval of the homily, which he claimed to have heard from the parish priest in Urdaneta Village in Makati City. The priest's identity was not immediately available.

Another congressman, House Deputy Speaker Gerardo Espina, criticized Manila Archbishop Jaime Cardinal Sin for continuing his call for the resignation of Mr. Estrada despite a recent rebuke from the Vatican concerning the local Church's active involvement in state affairs.

Espina said the cardinal was attempting "to tamper with the verdict of the impeachment court by pushing senator-judges to convict Mr. Estrada.

In a pastoral letter on Sunday, Sin renewed his call for the resignation of the President and warned of a people's revolution if the Senate impeachment trial acquits Mr. Estrada.

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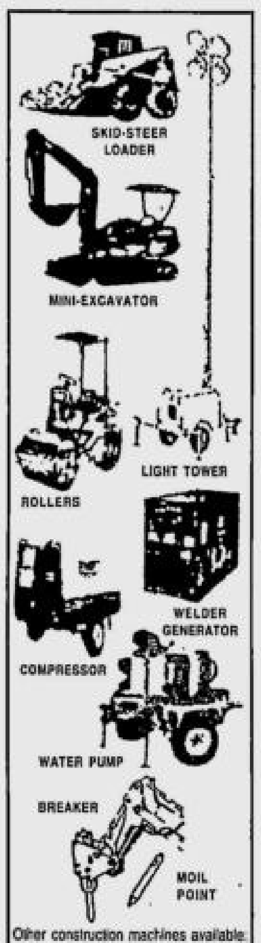

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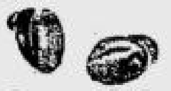

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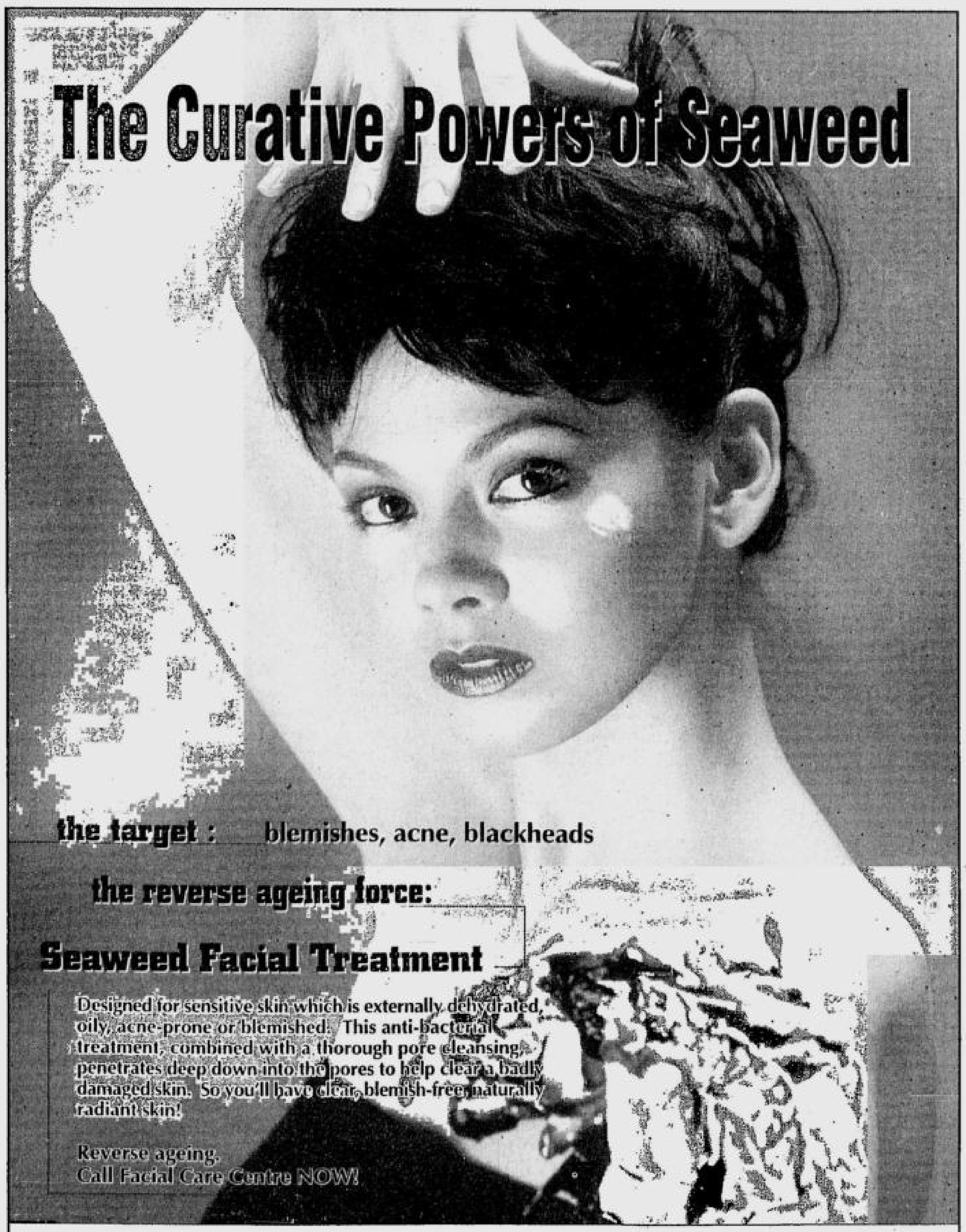
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# Peso falls to 52.40 vs dollar

(From page A1)

continued to weigh on the peso but added weak regional currencies contributed to the slide.

The Thai baht yesterday fell to 43.65 from last week's 43.30 against the dollar, while the yen slipped to 119 from 118.

The BSP also cut its key overnight rates by half a percentage point effective Monday, the fifth such rate cut in the last two months.

The latest cut brought the overnight borrowing rate down to 12.5 percent and the overnight lending rate to 14.75 percent.

The Senate impeachment court is expected to hand down its verdict by Feb. 12, but the Catholic Church and major business groups fear House prosecutors would not be able to secure a conviction by two-thirds of the 22-member Senate.

The Church and major business groups, which have called on Mr. Estrada to resign, are worried the tribunal would acquit him despite what they claim is overwhelming evidence pointing to his guilt.

They warned of massive street protests and threatened to launch a civil disobedience campaign if Mr. Estrada were cleared, with Manila Archbishop Jaime Cardinal Sin saying he would personally lead the marches.

Guillermo Luz, executive director of the Makati Business Club, warned of capital flight and economic recession if the President stayed in power.

Former Socioeconomic Planning Secretary Cayetano Paderanga also predicted the peso would depreciate to 58 to the dollar in the event of an "indecisive acquittal" by the Senate court.

### Herrera

Bohol Rep. Ernesto Herrera said the peso would likely hit 55 to the dollar, contrary to statements by Executive Secretary Edgardo Angara that the local currency would rebound to 46 or 47 after the trial.

"On the contrary, investors will react negatively to an acquittal. There will be more flight out of the peso in favor of the dollar. Thus, the local currency will plunge some more," Herrera said.

Reacting to these bleak economic scenarios, acting Press Secretary Mike Toledo accused the opposition of "prejudging the case."

Toledo said the economy would improve after the trial. "Definitely things will be much better because the political uncertainty will be, to a large measure, taken out of the picture," he told a press briefing.

Toledo said the government "was doing its best to insulate the political issue from the economic," he said.

"After the verdict has been rendered, the Philippine economy will be insulated," he said. *With reports from Donna S. Cueto, AFP and AP*

# *Is 'exodus' sign of an exit plan?*

(From page A1)

preparing for an exit scenario," said Joey Rufino, executive director of the opposition Lakas-NUCD party.

But President Estrada will "face the music" if the Senate finds him guilty and has no plan to flee and live in exile, his political adviser Angelito Banayo said later.

"We submitted ourselves to the process and we are ready to face whatever the verdict of that process is," Banayo said. "Does he have any choice except to face the music if and when he is convicted?"

Rufino said Laarni Enriquez left "not just to evade testifying" but also allegedly to "make sure that preparations for Estrada's own exile are completed." He did not say on what basis he was making the statement.

Mr. Estrada "had no reaction" to reports that two of his mistresses had left Manila since the impeachment trial resumed earlier this month, acting Press Secretary Mike Toledo said in a briefing yesterday.

"I am not aware if he has been informed of the alleged departure of Joy Melendrez," Toledo said, adding that he could not confirm if Melendrez had indeed left Manila.

Ex-movie starlet Enriquez, by whom Mr. Estrada has three young children, evaded servers of a Senate subpoena last week and abruptly left for New York via Hong Kong, claiming to friends that she was going for a medical checkup at the Mt. Sinai Medical Center.

Melendrez, airport sources told the INQUIRER on Sunday, left for Los Angeles along with her young son by Mr. Estrada on Saturday night.

Mr. Estrada's son JV Ejercito yesterday denied a rumor that his mother Guia Gomez had also left the country.

"We did not leave the country, and we have no plans of leaving," he said. "My mother is still here."

Rufino said Mr. Estrada "should not be allowed to go in exile and join his women in comfortable retirement abroad," adding that the President should account for his alleged crimes.

### 'Careful'

Toledo repeated the Palace line that the departure of the President's mistresses did not indicate guilt. He warned the press against making accusations against the women, saying they were private citizens with rights that should be respected.

"So let's be very careful in making these accusations. Just because people are leaving country, it does not mean that they are trying to evade the processes of the court," Toledo said.

Senate Secretary Lutgardo Barbo had earlier said that Enriquez's departure involved "deceit," while House prosecutors had made remarks in the same vein.

Toledo said "it would not be proper for me to make any comments on private citizens. . . They have their own lawyers who could speak on their behalf."

Again, the Palace accused opposition forces of a smear campaign.

"Clearly, the objective of the united opposition, as well as the prosecution, is really to embarrass the President, embarrass the people close to the President, with the sole purpose of embarrassing the institution of the presidency," Toledo said.

"We cannot allow that," he added. *With a report from AFP*

# All set for 'People Power II'

(From page A1)

Party-list group Bayan Muna and the Pambansang Lakas ng Kilusang Mamamalakaya ng Pilipinas (Pamalakaya) said Mr. Estrada's acquittal would result in disorder.

Bayan Muna president Satur Ocampo said acquittal was not a guarantee for the President to complete his term.

"On the contrary, Bayan Muna predicts stormy weather ahead . . . once the impeachment court decides in favor of the President," Ocampo said.

Armed Forces Chief of Staff Gen. Angelo Reyes and Director General Panfilo Lacson of the Philippine National Police expressed hope that the court's verdict would not be met with violence.

"Whatever happens, we will be ready for it," Reyes said in a press conference at Camp Aguinaldo.

Lacson said that the PNP was preparing "some contingencies" but that these were mostly for "protest and indignation rallies."

### Only a miracle

The Catholic Bishops' Conference of the Philippines, through its media director Msgr. Hernando Coronel, said "only a miracle and the power of prayer" would move the senator-judges to abandon political allegiances and vote for the President's conviction.

The CBCP also echoed Manila Archbishop Jaime Cardinal Sin, warning of more protest actions should the impeachment court vote for acquittal.

"In the light of the demoralized culture, acquittal of the President by the Senate seems to be expected. Based on the proceedings of the impeachment trial so far, there is no reason to believe the contrary," Archbishop Orlando Quevedo, CBCP president, said in a faxed statement.

"The testimonies are solid. They point to massive corruption on the part of the President. Yet the behavior of the senators still seems to follow political lines. The President holds the greater number," Quevedo said.

He said the behavior of certain senator-judges vis-à-vis the testimony of former Finance Secretary Edgardo Espiritu, former Philippine Stock Exchange president Jose Luis Yulo, former PSE executive Ruben Almadro and former Securities and Exchange Commission chair Perfecto Yasay indicated that they would vote in Mr. Estrada's favor.

"Some senators prefer to interpret the words of the President (in his supposed conversations with the witnesses) out of context so as to give them innocent meaning," Quevedo said.

"For reasonable people, the meaning of words must be understood in their proper context. Therefore, I find the intent of some of the questions from some senators most disturbing," he said.

But Quevedo added: "Of course, we really will never know until they cast their votes. God's grace works quietly in the depths of conscience. Still, the door of conscience must be open to God's grace."

Quevedo said the President's acquittal would lead to massive and continuous indignation rallies by people who think the truth had been betrayed.

"The Church will not allow violence," he said, but noted that it could not "discount the possibility or even the validity of extralegal peaceful means, in terms of civil disobedience."

### Top priority

Soliman said Kompil was giving top priority to working for the conviction scenario.

She said Kompil members were intensifying efforts "to appeal to the conscience" of the senator-judges.

These efforts, she said, included the attendance of more Kompil members at the impeachment watch on the Senate grounds, more prayer offerings from the parishes, and even fasting.

If the President is acquitted and hangs on, Kompil will mount an education campaign and consolidate popular support for his ouster, Soliman said.

It also plans to work for the defeat of administration candidates in the May 14 elections, as well as for the declaration of "Erap-free zones" in communities, factories and schools.

Soliman said Kompil would move to protect the "democratic space" in view of supposed signs that the administration would go after the opposition.

She cited Mr. Estrada's earlier remarks wherein he accused big business of conspiring with the opposition in ousting him, and warned big traders who had unpaid loans from government financial institutions.

Bayan Muna's Ocampo said that after the prosecution's damning evidence against the President, an acquittal would only provoke the people to support escalated protest actions.

"The mandate given to him two years ago will be reclaimed by our people through mass actions and high-pitched protests," he said.

Echoing this view, Pamalakaya national chair Rodolfo Sambajon said that "whether the President likes it or not, the people will find a way to deliver their verdict through street justice, the battle over public opinion and legitimate protests."

"If Palace strategists believe that the President's acquittal will bring back a semblance of normalcy, they are all wrong," Sambajon said.

### As it arises

According to Reyes, the military "will have to deal with the situation" as it arises.

"We cannot predict any situation with certainty or a reasonable degree of accuracy," he said.

He declined to say what the military considered a worst-case scenario after the trial.

But he said: "I hope it won't come to that."

In Lacson's opinion, protesters would not "resort to violent means to disrupt the day-to-day activities of our people."

"If they resort to that, then it will constitute some violations and the PNP has no choice but to implement the law," he said.

But he said "maximum tolerance will always be there as a matter of policy."

Reyes and Lacson called the joint press conference with Commission on Elections Chair Harriet Demetriou following a closed-door command conference for the national and local elections.

The two officers said the elections would push through even if the protest actions continued up to May.

Reyes refused to say how the military would handle a civil disobedience drive that protesters could mount.

The AFP and the Department of National Defense have aired the assurance that the military would remain in the barracks and would not intervene in shaping the political situation. But talks are rife about discontent within the ranks.

### March

Bearing placards and streamers, at least 5,000 protesters led by Resign and Bayan marched yesterday from the Malate Church toward the Senate to press for Mr. Estrada's conviction.

But they failed to get past the human barricade set up by police at the Manila Film Center.

Rafael Mariano, chair of Bayan and the Kilusang Magbubukid ng Pilipinas, denounced Sen. Gregorio Honasan for his statement Saturday belittling people power.

Honasan had said that a civilian uprising would only succeed with military backing. Without this, he said, "people power will be meaningless."

Mariano said that contrary to Honasan's view, "the people are superior to the military."

"Undermining the people's superiority over the military can only be done by a fascist and human rights violator and a pro-Estrada senator. Such a statement serves Mr. Estrada's interest to cling to power because it aims to pacify the people's protest movement," Mariano said.

He said militant groups believed that the President could be ousted without bloodshed.

"A peaceful but militant protest action, like surrounding the Palace, supported by millions of people, is sufficient to oust the fascist and anti-people President from power," he said.

Bayan secretary general Teodoro Casiño said impeachment was "only one way of ousting an unwanted President."

"We already proved in 1986 that people power is the most effective way to oust a President. Impeachment is fine, but if it cannot remove Estrada, then we'll have to find a more effective way—the parliament of the streets," Casiño said.

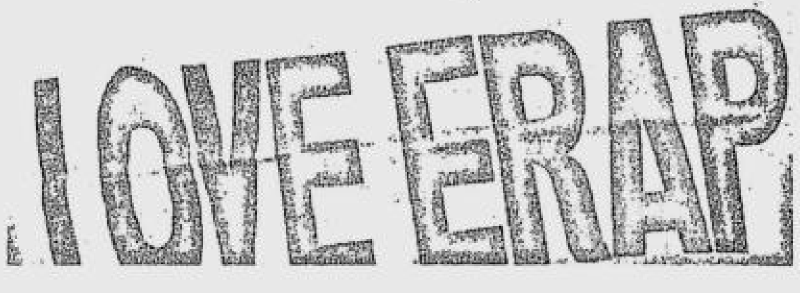
During the march, the protesters recited the litany of Mr. Estrada's alleged sins and depicted these through a mobile theater dubbed "Acquittal: Death of Democracy" and directed by artist Behn Cervantes.

### No moral basis

In Davao City, the Archdiocese-led Solidarity for Political Transformation-Davao (Solid-Davao) yesterday said it would also mount regular protest actions if Mr. Estrada is acquitted.

Fr. Leonardo Dublan, co-convenor of Solid-Davao, said the President had lost the moral basis to govern and would not be able to lead the nation effectively even with an acquittal. Dublan said that while Solid-Davao still respected the impeachment process, it would not pin too much hope on the senator-judges for a fair and credible decision. *With reports from Christine Herrera and Andrea Trinidad-Echavez in Manila; Jowel F. Canuday, PDI Mindanao Bureau*

A SUPPORTER of President Estrada flashes the thumbs-up sign during a rally outside the Senate. REUTERS



# *Erap loses 15 lb because of trial*

By Armand N. Nocum

A PORTLY President Estrada has lost 15 lb of unwanted fat not through rigorous exercise or intense dieting but because of his ongoing impeachment trial.

And Malacañang is happy about this development.

Acting Press Secretary Michael Toledo said the beleaguered Mr. Estrada has finally attained a "fighting weight."

"As to whether it was caused by the impeachment (trial) or not, I'm sure that the President welcomes such a development," he said of the President's weight loss.

Toledo did not give the current weight of Mr. Estrada who was well over 200 lb (91 kg) when he assumed office three years ago.

How the President achieved the reduced weight was less important than the question of whether or not such weight loss has affected his work.

"The more important issue really is, does it affect his governance? Does it affect his decision-making powers? Does it affect his dealings with the various heads of various departments? And my answer there is very categorical: No, it has not," he said.

A less fleshy Mr. Estrada is now a hard worker, he said.

"In fact, it has made him work harder or twice as much," he said.

This was confirmed in a radio interview by the President's spokesperson, Ernesto Maceda, who said Mr. Estrada was now more physically able to hurdle the crisis he's going through.

Maceda said Mr. Estrada was now faced with having to govern while standing trial for corruption.

"His doctors are happy that he lost 15 pounds. That is why I think he is healthier and energetic," Maceda said, adding that this has enabled the President to make a series of strenuous out-of-town official visits.

Mr. Estrada's present work schedule was in stark contrast with his habit in the past of shunning provincial trips, preferring to do his work mainly in Malacañang or within Metro Manila.

"Before, his work was mainly the core responsibility of a President—deciding policy questions, appointments and (government) posts" in the Palace, Maceda explained.

"Now his work is double-barreled, in that he acts as President, governing the country; at the same time, he is a respondent in this impeachment (trial) where he needs to monitor developments and cooperate with his lawyers," he said.

In his first major move this year, Mr. Estrada appointed former Agriculture Secretary Edgardo Angara as executive secretary, and gave him vastly expanded powers.

Malacañang justified this, saying that the President wanted to clear himself of the less important work in the Office of the President in order for him to have more time visiting the provinces.

# Palace warns . . .

(From page A1)

Maceda said he found it hard to understand why the Catholic Church had "prejudged" the case "at this early or middle stage of the proceedings."

He said the Church and opposition groups should be aware that at this stage, it was only the House prosecutors who had presented their evidence at the trial.

"It seems that whatever it is that prosecution witnesses say, they already accept it as gospel truth. But the defense panel has yet to present its evidence," Maceda said.

In another radio interview, Maceda said those calling for Mr. Estrada's ouster should withhold judgment at this time.

"If you judge the President based on the evidence presented so far, then naturally you will conclude that a conviction awaits (him)," Maceda said over dzMM.

"Why don't they pass judgment after the prosecution and the defense panels shall have presented their evidence?" he said.

Sin and leaders of the multisectoral Kongreso ng Mamamayang Pilipino (Kompil) have threatened to stage a people power-type revolt if Mr. Estrada is acquitted through "deceit."

This move, Maceda said, constituted efforts to subvert the President's constitutional right to due process.

"There is an apparent grand design here by the prosecution and the united opposition to mock the constitutional and democratic processes and push our country to the edge, if only to overthrow the President or force him to resign on the back of trumped-up charges of 'jueteng'-inspired corruption," Maceda said in a statement.

He accused Sin and the opposition of allegedly trying to "poison the public on the President's guilt even before the defense panel can start its own presentation in answer to the impeachment charges."

He asked them not to "rob the President of his right to be presumed innocent unless proven otherwise at the end of the trial." *Reports from AFP and Armand N. Nocum*

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# Plunder raps a Palace demolition job, says Villar

ONE opposition leader at a time.

This was how former Speaker Manuel Villar described an alleged demolition program of Malacañang against politicians who are pushing for the President's ouster, even as he shrugged off plunder charges filed against him recently over his "ST" ads.

In a press forum yesterday, Villar said the plunder raps filed with the Ombudsman by the Public Interest Center Inc., an advocacy group, was an "expected" retaliation by the administration for his role in ramming through the House the Articles of Impeachment against the President.

Minority Leader Feliciano Belmonte, manager of the prosecution panel at the impeachment trial of the President, said he himself was charged with graft last week in connection with the 1987 sale of Government Service and Insurance System assets worth P570 million when he was its president and general manager.

Belmonte also linked the filing of the charges against him to his role in the impeachment trial of the President.

"I expected to get this after what I did," said Villar, who was unseated by pro-administration congressmen after he hastened the forwarding of the impeachment case against the President to the Senate without giving any congressman the chance to object.

Earlier, Villar reported that his real estate firm had been receiving bomb threats.

Villar has been accused by the Public Interest Center headed by Crispin Reyes and lawyer Vicente Millora with having spent over P59 million of the House budget for his "Sipag at Tiyaga" ads which, it claimed, were "self-praise" and "self-extolment." *Volt Contreras*

# Ping dreams of netting Erap pal

**BY CARLITO PABLO AND JULIET L. JAVELLANA**

WHILE former finance secretary Edgardo Espiritu declined to name the suspected smugglers he had seen in Malacañang at the impeachment trial of the President, two current officials were not so shy.

Police Director General Panfilo Lacson said he has a dream and it is to nail a friend of the President's, Lucio Co, whose name appeared on a list of suspected smugglers of the Bureau of Customs.

The list was released last year to the media by Malacañang which did not release the result of the probe of those who were on it, however.

"I have been dreaming of the day I will be able to confiscate some goods and link him (Co) through evidence," Lacson said in an interview at Camp Aguinaldo.

When asked if the Presidential Anti-Organized Crime Task Force which he heads is investigating Co, Lacson said, "There is an investigation but it's a matter of evidence."

At yesterday morning's regular Senate session, Sen. Juan Ponce Enrile also named another person as among those Espiritu may have been alluding to in his trial testimony.

In response to a question by Senate President Aquilino Pimentel Jr., Enrile said, "Since this is the Senate, I understand one of them is supposed to be a very notable man in the handling of the importation of rice, sugar and fertilizer. I do not know whether I know his name correctly, I understand it is Manny Tankiansee."

But Enrile said he had information Tankiansee was a director of Wincorp, a subsidiary of Westmont Bank, which was run by Espiritu's son, John.

Espiritu caused a stir at the President's impeachment trial last Friday after he testified that aside from the President's alleged involvement in the insider trading of BW shares, the rampant corruption in the Bureau of Customs was another reason he quit the Cabinet. *With Dave M. Veridiano*

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# OPINION

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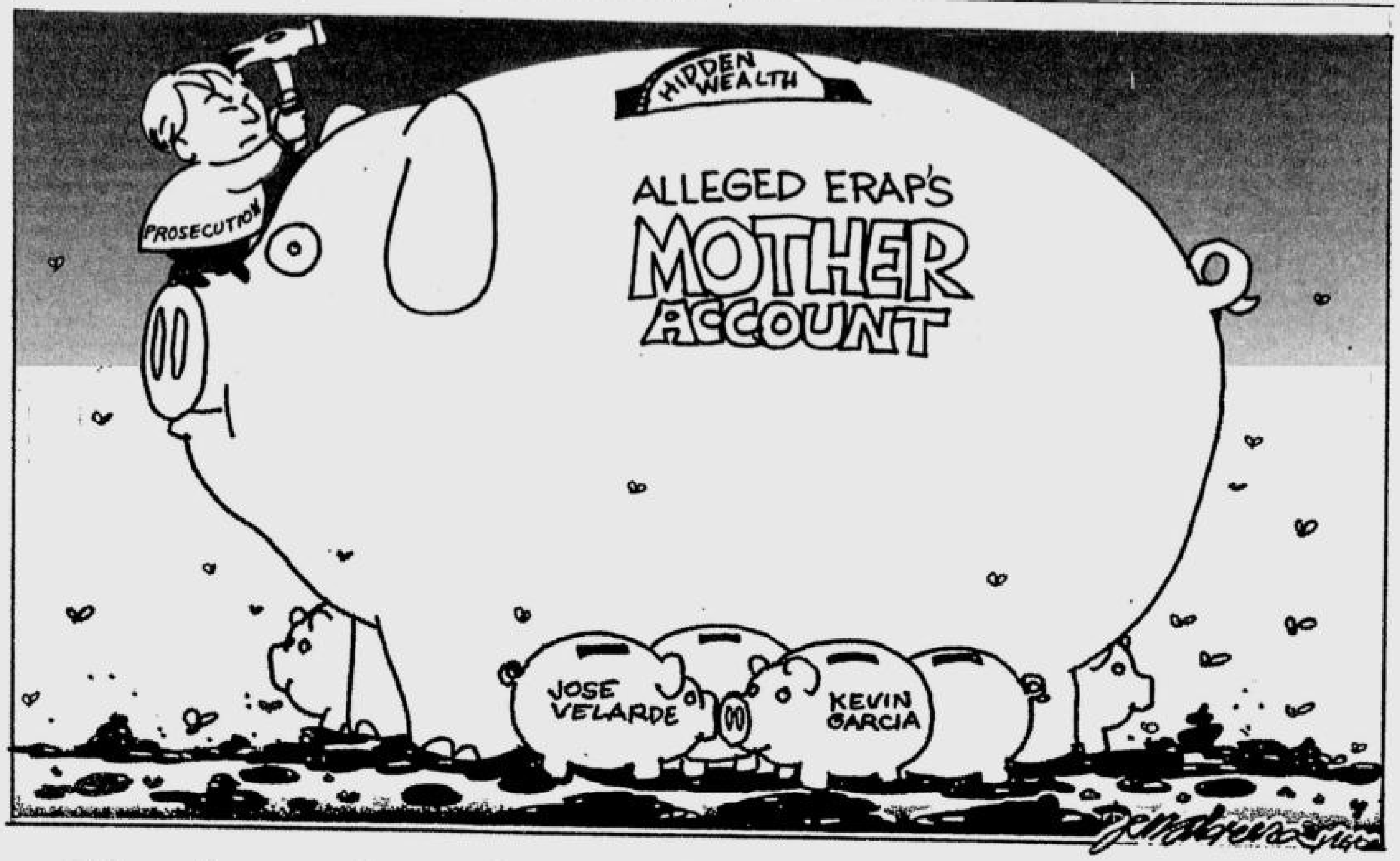

# The medium…

EDITORIALS

EXECUTIVE Secretary Edgardo Angara is either lying or dumber than suspected. Reacting to former Finance Secretary Edgardo Espiritu's revelation at the impeachment trial that Angara was among those who phoned or visited him in an effort to dissuade him from testifying, Angara said the call had been intended only to show that the Estrada administration was not bent on hounding him. Or words to that effect.

Hello? What sort of explanation is that? And did Angara actually think this dissembling would let him off the hook of derision?

Anyone who has to deal with the extremely critical matter of public perception—and a politician like the newly appointed Little President is necessarily one of them—would, or ought to, know what that call could possibly mean in these days when literal and metaphorical knives have been unsheathed. In this case, the medium was the message regardless of the exact words said.

Ilocos Sur Gov. Luis Singson—who triggered the "Juetengate" scandal now proving to be the mere tip of the iceberg that is scraping against the by-now-brittle hull of the Estrada administration—also named Angara as among those who tried to talk him out of testifying. Angara likewise denied that, but then it is his word against Singson's as it is his against Espiritu's. And he is hardly credible on both counts.

It does not matter that other parties also attempted to block the flow of information to the public on the strange, indeed allegedly illegal, workings of the Estrada administration. Carmelo Santiago, whom Espiritu also named, is a known buddy of Mr. Estrada's who has benefited from that friendship in terms of board memberships in certain powerful agencies. It is to be expected that he would move heaven and earth to try to preserve the status quo.

But Angara's case is something else—unless, of course, we are all expected to accept the backroom arrangements dear to influence peddlers and wheeler-dealers as the norm. He has just been named to show not only local but also international audiences the extent of this embattled administration's resolve to institute reforms. Is this any way for a deodorizer to behave?

# …Is the message

THE NERVE of defense lawyer Raymond Fortun, who has been reported as saying that the members of President Estrada's defense team "are being hit one by one" in the course of "a well-planned demolition job." He appears to be referring to the various binds in which he and his colleagues have found themselves—as though these were orchestrated and not of their own making.

There is no law against an excess of gall, there's the pity. If there were, and if law enforcement in these parts were as sterling as, say, the performance of the Presidential Security Group in guarding the President's assorted mistresses and progeny, young Fortun would be doing time by now.

Fortun and his elder brother Sigfrid are on the carpet for willfully foisting the Delia Rajas caper on the impeachment court, wherein a witness was compelled to seek out from the gallery a woman who was not there.

Estelito Mendoza, famous for his successful defense of such big-ticket clients as Imelda Marcos, Eduardo "Danding" Cojuangco, Lucio Tan et al., is under suspicion of involvement in the preparation of a set of documents that would cover up the ownership of the "Jose Velarde" account at Equitable PCI Bank. The suspicion is well founded in that the signing of the documents was done in his very office.

The chair of the defense panel, former Chief Justice Andres Narvasa, is due for some attention himself, having been chair of the Philippine National Bank when, according to then Finance Secretary Edgardo Espiritu, it granted a P600-million loan to Dante Tan's BW Resources Corp. minus the "3 Cs"—collateral, character, capacity to pay.

This is apparently what Fortun says is a demolition job aimed at "discrediting every member of the defense team." But exactly who is doing the discrediting but themselves? (It is said that in court, body language, and not only words, is significant in the full appreciation of what is seen and heard. If so, the attentive observer would note that Sigfrid Fortun's sudden eye tic—surfacing terrible and relentless as he tried to explain the caper—delivered the message.)

# Give incentives for turning garbage into compost

AS I SEE IT

*Neal H. Cruz*

FIRST, the good news: President Estrada has ordered the abandonment of plans to dump Metro Manila's garbage on Semirara Island.

Both good news (for Metro Manilans) and bad news (for Rizal residents): The President has ordered the reopening of the San Mateo landfill and gave local government officials 10 days to clean up the trash scattered all over the metropolis. San Mateo and Antipolo residents are blocking garbage trucks going to the dump, which is either good or bad, depending on whether you live in Rizal or in Metro Manila.

Now, for the bad news: San Mateo can accommodate only half of the 4,000 metric tons of trash generated by city residents daily. So there is still no place to dump the remaining 2,000 tons. There is another 4,000 tons in two barges that were ordered to return to Manila after an unsuccessful attempt to dump their loads on Semirara. And anyway, San Mateo is good for only three months. So where will the Metropolitan Manila Development Authority dump the trash after three months? If the government was unable to find an alternative dump to San Mateo in the last four years, how can it find one in three months?

But here's more good news, like a silver lining behind the clouds or a light at the end of the tunnel: Sen. Loren Legarda-Leviste has a bill pending in the Senate that should solve the garbage problem permanently (knock on wood). It would close all open dump after three years, phase out the use of packaging made of non-biodegradable materials such as plastic and styrofoam, and promote the segregation, recycling and composting of trash. Only 15 to 20 percent garbage residue would be left which would be dumped in sanitary landfills. Less garbage means longer life for the landfills.

The bad news is that this bill, even if passed now, would be too late to solve the present garbage crisis which threatens the health of city residents. The only remedy left now is for people to be more responsible and generate less waste. You can do this by segregating your trash and by composting all your organic wastes such as kitchen waste, leaves, paper, grass, spoiled food, etc. Half of the total garbage can be turned into compost, another 30 percent are recyclable (bottles, cans, paper, rags, metals, glass). That leaves only 20 percent to be thrown away. You don't have to foul the streets and your neighborhood by throwing your trash anywhere. Keep it in your backyard until the garbage trucks come to collect them.

* * *

**Senator Legarda, Erap garbage czar Robert Aventajado, Quezon City Mayor Ismael Mathay Jr. and Assistant Director Fernandino Concepcion of the DENR's Environmental Management Bureau were the guests at last Monday's Kapihan sa Manila. It was revealed at the forum that Mathay submitted to Malacañang, back in 1995, a proposal by a consortium to recycle garbage. There was no garbage crisis in the horizon then, so Malacañang threw the proposal away. Now it wishes that it had paid more attention to it.**

**The beauty of that proposal is that it would be the garbage consortium that would segregate the garbage. The trouble with the segregation scheme proposed by non-government organizations is that people resist doing it. Local government units don't encourage it because garbage collection contractors are paid on a per-truck basis. Less garbage collected, less money collected and less kickbacks to local officials. Besides, what would city folk do with compost when there is barely any space to put up a garden in the city? The Mathay proposal solves this problem.**

**Very few people know that there is a demand for compost. At one Kapihan forum recently, a representative of a farmers' group, said that they are buying all the compost they can get. Compost is cheaper and better than commercial chemical fertilizer. So this is now an incentive for people to make compost. If the MMDA will have people with pushcarts buying compost house-to-house, just like *bote-garapa* boys buying bottles, cans and paper, there would be an incentive to make compost.**

**And if the Department of Agriculture can promote urban agriculture where homeowners can grow vegetables in their backyards or in flowerpots and cans, there would be a demand for compost even in the crowded cities.**

**When Edgardo Angara was newly appointed as agriculture secretary, he told me in an interview that he would promote urban agriculture. He also agreed with my suggestion to turn the Marikina Watershed Reservation into a vegetable bowl like Trinidad Valley in Benguet. The watershed reservation has the same climate as Trinidad Valley and has plenty of water from streams and rivers for watering the vegetables.**

**A vegetable bowl so close to Metro Manila would provide the city with cheap vegetables, besides giving employment to thousands of squatters in the watershed who eke out a living by cutting trees, making charcoal and making *kaingin*, all of which are very destructive. It would also create a demand for compost.**

**But somewhere along the way, Angara forgot his plans and now he is out of the DA. Maybe his successor and protégé, Agriculture Secretary Domingo Panganiban will do what Angara forgot.**

* * *

TODAY's Erap joke:

Erap was invited to be a contestant in "Who Wants to be a Millionaire?" hosted by fellow actor Christopher de Leon.

De Leon: There are three questions for the million-peso prize. If you answer them all, you get the P1 million.

Erap: P1 million *lang*? Chicken feed. *Pero sayang din 'yan.* Shoot.

De Leon: *Ano mayroon si Datu Puti*?

Erap: *Suka.*

De Leon: *Ano mayroon si Rufina at Tentay*?

Erap: *Patis.*

De Leon: *Ano mayroon si Miriam*?

Erap: *Toyo*!

# Power to the people

THERE'S THE RUB

*Conrado de Quiros*

GREGORIO "Gringo" Honasan says another people power revolt is not likely to happen because there is no military group to back it up. "I do not want to sound self-serving," he says, "but no leader or group of leaders has surfaced to capture the imagination of the military organization or of the police. I wish the archbishop (Jaime Cardinal Sin) good luck, but I don't think they can get a military component. Without a military breakaway component, people power would be meaningless."

One is tempted to say that being in power has a way of addling people's brains and making them forgetful. But one remembers that Honasan has been a little confused about what happened at Edsa long before he became senator. One remembers that he's been clueless about people power long before he became senator.

His version of what happened at Edsa is actually the same one his idol, Juan Ponce Enrile, keeps telling the public like a veteran showing off his spurious wounds in a bar. Namely, that were in not for him (Enrile), Fidel Ramos and their protégés in the AFP, Ferdinand Marcos would have remained in power. Were in not for them, Corazon Aquino would not have become president. Where it not for them, the crowd that massed at Edsa might have been turned into hamburger by Marcos' tanks.

The opposite is true. Were it not for the crowd that massed at Edsa, Enrile, Ramos, Honasan et al. would have been mixed in the cement by Marcos' howitzers, as Fabian Ver demanded. It was the crowd that went to the camps, despite the monumental dangers they faced (it's easy to imagine now how everyone would have wanted to be a hero, not so easy then when the prospect of being added to the country's mounting body count was very real) that stopped the tanks and the troops that had been ordered to drag out the presumed traitors or leave where they were in bits and pieces.

Just as well, were it not for Cory, or what she represented, which was a leader that would be the opposite of Marcos, Enrile, Ramos and Honasan would not have gotten where they are. The crowd did not risk life and limb for them, they did so for Cory. A pity that Cory would not see too that it wasn't just the blood of Ninoy that had brought her to where she was. It was the blood of those who had been "salvaged," made to disappear, and tortured for keeping the fires of freedom alive.

And still just as well, were it not for the people, who risked everything, heeding more than the call of Cardinal Sin and Butz Aquino, heeding in fact the call of their heart and their conscience, Marcos would have remained in Malacañang and the military mutineers would have gone to Valhalla. The point is simple: People power is essential, military support is gratuitous. People power can succeed without a military mutiny. A military mutiny cannot succeed without people power.

Without a military breakaway, people power would be meaningless? Without people power, a military breakaway would be meaningless!

I myself have little doubt that if Erap were acquitted, people power will follow as naturally as the sun does at the end of night. It's already there, in case you haven't noticed: in the protest in the streets, in homes and offices, in cyberspace, the newest and most powerful outlet for public opinion today. Why should people power follow the same path as Edsa? Each historical time creates its own challenges and its own responses.

At the very least, I do not know that the overthrow of Marcos itself would have been impossible without the military mutiny. It might have taken longer, or been bloodier, but the end was near for Marcos. The writing on the wall was there, not least in American policy, which had taken a turn toward supporting democratic alternatives and abandoning tyrants. More than that, before Enrile et al. mutinied—which was the result of being discovered rather than of being disabused—the anti-Marcos forces were already talking of mounting a civil disobedience movement to protest the results of the "snap election," which Marcos won.

The same civil disobedience movement is just waiting to be unleashed today—to protest the results of the trial, if it should prove to be rigged like those of the "snap election." The writing on the wall is there for Erap—not least in foreign investment, which has deserted the country like a wife a philandering husband. I am not discounting acts of grace, such as a military mutiny—after all, today's crisis or opportunity began with one, which was Chavit Singson seeing the light from being on the other side of a gun barrel—but I am counting more on the ultimate miracle, which is Filipinos discovering their capacity to work as one. A reporter asked me recently if I thought civil disobedience would be very hard to carry out. I said, how hard could it be not to pay your taxes? You would merely be adding principle to your favorite pastime.

But more than all this, to imagine that people power is there only to work a putsch is to miss the essence of people power altogether. Which is what Honasan, his arguably larger-than-life role in Edsa notwithstanding, has always missed. People power is not just about ousting a tyrant, it is about making sure a new tyrant doesn't come in his place. People power is not just about toppling a tyranny, it is about building a just order in its place. People power is not just about disempowering illegitimate rulers, it is about empowering the true rulers of a democratic country, who are its people.

People power is not just an event, it is a process. It is not just an end, it is a means. It is not just taking power from the few, it is giving power to the many. I would imagine that is more possible today than at Edsa. Today's events have been tremendously empowering in many ways. The impeachment trial alone has been vastly enlightening, giving the public to know not just the heights of thievery in public office but the precise ways in which the theft is wreaked. It has given the public a powerful weapon—the law, hitherto a means only of fomenting injustice—with which to do something about wrongdoing in public office. It has awakened in the public their capacity to make history, to reach beyond their grasp, to look beyond their horizon, to rise beyond themselves.

There is no charismatic figure today to drive the people to heights of greatness and heroism?

Ah, but then and now, truth is the most compelling force there is. Then and now, justice is the most irresistible power there is. Then and now, freedom is the most charismatic figure there is.

# No better proof

**POLITICAL TIDBITS**

*Belinda Olivares-Cunanan*

REPORTS about the Philippines' campaign to have Sen. Miriam Defensor-Santiago elected as one of 14 judges in the United Nation's International Tribunal that will try international crimes have elicited varied reactions from readers. One reader, who feels he has had enough of listening to Santiago's unique blend of Ilonggo and Ann Arbor twang, said it would be good riddance if the country could export her to the UN. "It's their turn to suffer her fake accent," says this reader. Another reader, however, says, "*Ano naman ang nagawa ng* Bosnia that Santiago will have to be inflicted on it? Sending her to Bosnia, says this reader, would constitute "the first international crime!"

* * *

**If you ask this columnist, I'd be happy to also take a respite from Santiago's unique accent. Quite frankly, when the feisty senator speaks, her accent reminds me of a train whose brakes have gone kaput—*hindi mo alam kung saan tatama*. For instance, how in the world can the word "according" end up being pronounced as "accurding." And yet, all things considered, having seen her up close in this impeachment trial, particularly her tendency to go berserk at the slightest provocation, I share the reader's sentiment about it being an international crime to send Santiago to the International Tribunal.**

* * *

US architect Benjamin Hughes has been subpoenaed by the prosecution to testify on the Estrada mansions. But a reader who is quite familiar with those mansions called me to say that one does not need any elaborate evidence to conclude that all those mansions are owned by one person. The reader, who does not want to be identified, points out that while the President was expanding his Greenhills mansion, he was also constructing the mansion of Laarni Enriquez in Wack-Wack Subdivision. Estrada was often seen by neighbors at about 5 o'clock in the afternoon supervising the work in Wack-Wack. But the best proof, says this reader, is that the Polk Street mansion used imported Italian tiles and the *sobra* was used in Wack-Wack. What better proof, the reader asks, could there be of one ownership?

* * *

**It was obvious that Estrada worked through a number of very close cronies. Earlier the media noted the central role of Atong Ang in the President's various endeavors. The testimony of Clarissa Ocampo and Perfecto Yasay brought up the name of Jaime Dichaves. Ocampo testified that there was an attempt to let Dichaves assume ownership of the Jose Velarde account in Equitable PCI Bank. A few days ago, then Finance Secretary Ed Espiritu testified that from May to October 1999, when the price of BW Resources was swinging wildly, administrative supervision over the Securities and Exchange Commission was transferred from the Department of Finance, which traditionally exercised such control over the PSE, to the Office of the President. From the various testimony, the reason became apparent: it was important to gain full control of the SEC as the manipulation of BW shares escalated (control was transferred back to Finance after the BW crisis and, reportedly, the PLDT deal were over).**

* * *

What was significant was Yasay's revelation that in October-November 1999, when the President was applying heavy pressure on Yasay to control the SEC, he allegedly told the SEC chief that instructions for the SEC would be coursed through Dichaves. The SEC is a quasi-judicial agency that regulates the stock exchange and its chief enjoys a fixed tenure, so that he can make independent decisions. But Estrada subjected Yasay to the indignity of getting instructions from a midnight crony who is not even with the government.

The pro-Estrada senators made a big effort to elicit from the PSE and SEC witnesses that there was no direct order from Estrada to clear Dante Tan. What the senators did not point out, though this must have been pretty clear to them, was that the President's interference in countermanding the PSE and SEC efforts to prevent the collapse of the stock market and the economy, to protect the interests of his cronies, was as good as a direct order to clear his friend.

* * *

**Espiritu made two damaging testimonies. One was the President's alleged admission that he was making a lot of money from his BW shares. As Sen. Frank Drilon pointed out, Sec. 13 of Article VII of the Constitution prohibits high-ranking government officials from, participating in any business and that "they shall strictly avoid conflict of interest in the conduct of their office." It becomes worse in the BW shares case, because the SEC, which regulates the stock exchange, is directly under the administrative supervision of the Office of the President. The conflict of interest is very clear.**

**By the way, readers wanted to know: When did the President call banks and stock brokers to raise the P1.2 billion needed to cover the BW float, in order to prevent a collapse of the stock market? Yasay testified that funds of the SSS and GSIS were used for this purpose.**

* * *

Espiritu's other damaging testimony was that the Philippine National Bank, which was then controlled by the government which had 11 of its 12 directors, lent to BW Resources P600 million, without sound collateral and despite the business losses it had been incurring. At the time of the loan, said Espiritu, BW had a net loss of P43 million. Asked if he would have lent such a huge amount to BW, the former banker said no. Most of the senator-judges were aware that then Chief Justice Andres Narvasa, now the lead defense counsel in the trial, was the PNB chair at the time of the loan, but in deference to him they politely did not mention it.

* * *

**Notice to those who have been following the year-long Diamond Jubilee University Lecture Series on Filipino Spiritual Culture and Globalization, sponsored by the Carmelites of St. Therese of Lisieux in Gilmore, New Manila, which began last November. The lecture series continues tomorrow, Jan. 17, 2001, with Fr. Eliseo R. Mercado Jr., OMI, president of Notre Dame University in Cotabato City, as speaker.**

**Father Mercado, an acknowledged expert on the role of Islam in the Philippines who has been extensively involved in the peace process in Mindanao, will speak on "Social Cleavages and the Peace Process in Southern Philippines."**

**Mercado's lecture will be held at the Audio-Visual Room of the Lyceum of the Philippines in Intramuros, Manila. Lyceum is one of 15 universities and colleges in Metro Manila that are cooperating with the Carmelites in this impressive year-long lecture series on a number of highly interesting and relevant religious and secular topics.**

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# When government is the violator

**AT LARGE**

*Rina Jimenez-David*

HERE'S a follow-up to the "The chicken at the trial" column, again courtesy of an e-mail group. To the question "Why did the chicken cross the road?," here are the supposed replies of other players in the most popular show in town:

JOKER ARROYO: It is very likely the chicken crossed the road to avoid the subpoena duces tecum. JOSE FLAMINIANO: We reiterate our continuous objection to the crossing of that chicken, Your Honor, on the grounds that the crossing of that chicken is immaterial and irrelevant to the case. SEN. NIKKI COSETENG: That chicken should not have crossed the road. It is supposed to be in the holding room.

MARICHU ITCHON: The chicken crossed the road to get out of the safe house and go shopping. SEN. JOHNNY FLAVIER: OK *lang sa akin yung mag*-cross *ang* chicken. SENATE PRESIDENT NENE PIMENTEL: While the impeachment trial is going on, no chicken should cross the road. SEN. JOHNNY ENRILE: While you can say that the chicken crossed the road, is it also possible to say that the road moved toward the chicken? Is it possible? If so, is it also possible to say that both the chicken and the road were moving toward each other? What if the chicken and the road were both stationary, and that a third party, a human observer, was actually the one moving? Can we say then that all this apparent crossing of the chicken, or the moving of the road, or both, are happening only in the mind of the observer? DELIA RAJAS: *Ewan ko,* Your Honor, *basta ako yung nagluto ng manok*!

* * *

**ON DEC. 30 last year, Flagship Projects Secretary and "Garbage Czar" Robert Aventajado joined a Thanksgiving Mass and gathering at the intersection of Marcos Highway and Sumulong Highway in Masinag, Antipolo. The occasion was the closure at midnight of Dec. 31 of the sanitary landfill in San Mateo, which was being used as the dump for Metro Manila garbage and the object of ire of the local communities.**

**On that occasion, Rizal Gov. Casimiro Ynares assured the assembled folk that the San Mateo landfill would be closed and if any garbage trucks would still be seen ferrying garbage to the site, "the government will see for itself the anger of the people of Rizal and we will start burning any garbage trucks we see," or words to that effect. According to someone who was there, Aventajado next mounted the stage and declared that if the site was still open after midnight of Dec. 31, "I will join you and start burning some trucks myself."**

**Well, where was Aventajado (and Ynares, for that matter) last Saturday, when citizens' groups set up barricades and held protests on the same spot in Masinag? That Thursday, Jan. 11, President Erap signed a new executive order calling for the reopening of the San Mateo landfill in view of the health risks to the rest of Metro Manila posed by the mounds of rotting uncollected garbage all over the metropolis. Shortly after, the garbage trucks started rolling again last Saturday, until they encountered the barriers put up by the people of Antipolo, San Mateo, Cainta and environs.**

* * *

WELL, the trucks are lumbering down Marcos Highway again, the San Mateo dump is still in use, and the local communities are still, if not far more, incensed at the national and provincial government for going back on their word.

It must be recalled that Metro Manila Development Authority, under Chair Jojo Binay, as well as Aventajado as the country's "garbage czar," had all of two years to look for an alternative site, or formulate and implement an alternative plan, to deal with the mounting garbage problem in the metropolis.

On Feb. 16, 1999, a memorandum of agreement between Ynares and the MMDA, together with the mayors of Antipolo and San Mateo and representatives of NGOs, set a six-month extension on the use of the San Mateo dump while authorities looked for an alternative site. When the deadline arrived on July 19 that year, Aventajado, saying he represented no less than the President, presented an EO further extending the use of the site for another 18 months, that is, until Dec. 31, 2000.

What were Binay, Aventajado, Ynares and, for that matter, Erap, doing to solve the problem in the meantime? "How can we believe they can do in three months (the new deadline) what they failed to do in two years?" asks an officer of A-Homes, the coalition of homeowners' associations in Antipolo and one of the NGOs protesting the reopening of the San Mateo landfill.

* * *

**THE PEOPLE'S barricade in Masinag last Saturday was dismantled after many hours of protest and horrendous traffic because authorities sent over 400 policemen to break up the barricades and threatened to haul off the leaders to jail.**

**In a later dialogue with Interior Secretary Fred Lim, the protesters argued that if it was illegal for them to set up barricades against the garbage trucks, "why did authorities allow the trucks to barricade Marcos Highway night after night?" If you will remember, I have already written in this space about the arrogance of the garbage truck drivers, whose reckless driving has resulted in a total of 120 deaths so far.**

**And if it was illegal for the residents to express their sentiments through their protests, "why is it all right for the national government to continuously violate our laws (on environmental compliance, etc.)?" they ask.**

**Ironically, says someone who was negotiating with Lim, the DILG chief's saying when he was mayor of Manila was that "The law should apply to all, otherwise none at all." So what are ordinary people to do when it is the government itself that flouts the law and reneges on its word?**

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# Mammography and other nasty inventions

**SENSE AND SENSIBILITY**

*Bambi L. Harper*

THE ONE thing I didn't expect from the impeachment trial is that it would turn me into a couch potato. Slouched on a couch, eating a pound of *butong pakwan,* is about the worst result so far. Of course, there's also that sinfully moist fruitcake left over from Christmas (I refused to share it with anyone) and the salmon dip with French onion and sour cream potato chips. Consequently, I have no intention of seeing that perfectly nice doctor who insisted I had to return to check my triglycerides. The only non-fattening food item in the ref is a Diet Coke that tastes awful.

All this health consciousness started when a good friend insisted it was time I had a check-up. Since she'd been nagging me for about five years, I thought that maybe she had a point there and it wouldn't hurt to go through it every 50 or so years. You have to understand that I felt perfectly fine and I figured, what's a little check-up between friends?

So bright and early at about 8:00 a.m. we went to see this nice young doctor who addressed me as "*Tita*." This was understandable since I first met the young man when he was in diapers. How was I to know that this was true of all the other doctors? Every time I'd mention the name of a doctor who was older than me, he was either dead or retired and the nice young doctor would wrinkle his nose and suggest we pick one more up-to-date.

In case you didn't know it, the type of doctor who treated everything doesn't exist anymore. Even dentists come in all shapes and sizes, and you have to go to a specialist to get a tooth pulled. They don't even clean your teeth without an X-ray these days.

Anyway, going back to this once-in-a-lifetime experience. You start with getting what feels like a liter of blood extracted with this long nasty needle. Don't look at it. My friend paled, complained of palpitations and confessed she faints at the sight of blood. No wonder she wanted company. Me, I was fine: I just have collapsing veins so the nurse had to poke around and punch holes, trying to find a live one.

In the meantime, some poor man came into this room full of women and they were doing all kinds of tests on him. So I asked the nurse *sotto voce* why I couldn't have the same type of test. "That's only for HIV," she said in a loud voice, making the roomful of women turn to look at the poor man. "We also get lots of priests," she explained—this time in a conspiratorial whisper.

I think that's how the doctor found out my triglycerides were three times normal and insisted that I come back after six weeks of following this nasty low-fat diet. He suggested Xenecal, but I said no way. Let me do it my way. I'm just going to eat vegetables. (They use to call that Famous Last Words.)

Needless to say, the cholesterol count was also up and I'd hate to find out what it's at after the potato chips and the dip and the cakes. You must not even jokingly ask how many pounds I've put on. No way am I about to forgive Joseph Estrada. If he hadn't done all those things Chavit said he did, I wouldn't be watching TV and gaining more weight.

Next came the mammography. Hey, if you don't have breast cancer before the test, wait till that ton of steel squashes your boobs. Incredible! Thank heaven, they're sort of flexible and bounced back into shape. You'd think that in this day and age, with all the advances in medicine, they'd invent a gentler method. Talk about mashers! Naturally its another roomful of women running around in little green wraps being molested by a machine. To add insult to injury, you pay for this stuff.

Next came a bone density test. Now that isn't too bad. You lie down in this absolutely cold aluminum slab while an overhead (or was it under?) machine goes back and forth.

After that, it was time to see another doctor whom I also met last when he was in diapers and who naturally called me "*Tita*" also. It's consoling to know one doesn't have osteoporosis, although this one thought I should exercise and take all kinds of red and white tablets, pink capsules, yellow ones and white ones that had to have Vitamin D. Nasty boy. Thank heaven, it was lunchtime and I could have some *kare-kare*.

Needless to say, I was feeling put upon. Trudging from one doctor's office to another is not my idea of fun.

Finally came the great indignity of undergoing a pap smear done by someone calling you "*Tita*"! I swear there are many more pleasant ways to spend a Monday morning. I doubt if my mother ever had one and she lived to the ripe old age of 89.

There were a couple of more tests they wanted to run, but I decided that no way would I allow them to do them. It was 4:30 in the afternoon and I decided I had better things to do.

I couldn't believe it. Eight hours earlier, I was bouncing around, convinced I was in the pink of health and feeling great. Then there I was not only feeling like a drudge but also looking like one and several thousand pesos poorer. Remember Robert Browning who wrote, "Grow old along with me, the best is yet to come"? What an idiot.

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# Why them, and not me?

*Katrin Maria Escay*

WHY are so many people dead? Why are so many left without a son, a daughter, a relative, an arm, a leg, a foot, or a hand? And why do I feel like crying?

The air is unusually quiet. There are no more fireworks. There are no drunken voices singing on the karaoke or laughing at our nearby *tindahan*. There is no one playing mahjong next door. The child is not crying in the window beside ours. The silence is deafening. And I feel like crying.

**YOUNGBLOOD**

*We want to know what the young are thinking about. What are their thoughts on current issues? We welcome contributions from the twentysomething and below.—Ed.*

I do not know any of them. Not the girl being carried bloodied and lifeless whose picture appeared on the front page of this paper. Not the baby whose leg was found, to be kept inside a ziplock bag. I did not know the men or women who held bags of fruit, toys, children and things on that train, that bus, that park, that road, or that airport. But I am crying and I cannot understand why I cannot breathe.

The smog has already settled to the pavement. Leftover *bawang* wrappers litter the street. They are fewer than the debris left after the New Year revelry last year. But the air still feels so thick that it cannot enter this tiny chest, and this tiny hand cannot seem to write fast enough to describe the feeling.

I did not talk much today. Very strange for someone who usually debates with friends, someone who does not hesitate to take a stand on issues. Today, I do not know where I am. I do not know if there is any word that can express what I feel. And yet, I did not know them.

The ink from this ball point pen has smeared my hand, my palm, forming words that will never be erased, that can never be erased. They merge with the lines on my palm saying, "You should never forget this."

I will never forget this. This should not happen. This will not happen to my children.

I am young, but I feel that the black ink spreading from this page unto my hand has given me years that I will never be able to replace.

I did not know them, but I loved them. I was asleep for a very long time in the comfort of my home, convincing myself that I will express all this through the medium of film, my art, some day. But cannot wait for that some day. I have only now.

They do not have this now anymore. They were robbed of it, just as they were about to celebrate the soon, the later, the tomorrow. There are no more tomorrows for me. Today, I speak. Today, I say I cannot breathe. Today, I say we need our freedom and our freedom cannot wait.

I am shaking. Why them, not me? Can I say it was because I was blessed? Or because I am lucky? Why was I not on that bus in Cubao or on that LRT on Blumentritt or in that park in Ermita? Why was I spared?

Is it because God has his special eye on me and thinks I deserve to live longer? No. It is because right now, I need to be here more than they do. Their jobs are done. Mine has just begun. I am awake.

To those who did this to them: You have made a terrible mistake. You tried to instill fear among the people but you achieved the opposite. You have opened my eyes and they will never close again.

*Katrin Maria Escay, 23, is finishing here thesis in film making at the University of the Philippines in Diliman.*

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# Erap through the eyes of a child

*Amee R. Enriquez*

MY nine-year-old sister Bea is in grade three. Like many kids her age, she is precocious, inquisitive and playful, sometimes bordering on the naughty. She has an extensive collection of stuff that kids like to collect: stickers, stationery, freebies from fastfood joints, Barbie dolls. She easily adapts to technology, not being the least bit intimidated by gizmos like computers. To my consternation, she has become the avid user of the cell phone that I gave my mom for Christmas, which she uses every chance she gets, sending and receiving text messages and graphics to and from friends and striving to be the top scorer in the game of "snake."

She was reared on TV, watching almost every program that catches her fancy. Aside from the standard cartoons ("Rugrats" and the "Powerpuff Girls" are among her favorites), she is an avid viewer of MTV, closely watching the videos of the Spice Girls, Brittney Spears and Ricky Martin. She even went through a phase where she was obsessed with WWF wrestling, until I told my parents that they better ban her from watching it lest she pick up the wrong idea that violence is acceptable behavior.

I see Bea only a few times a year owing to the fact that I work in Manila and my family is in Bacolod so I haven't really seen her growing up. Every time I go home and spend time with her, it amazes me to note how much older and wiser she has grown.

One time during the holidays, we chanced upon "A Song of Peace," the ad on GMA 7 with the caricatures of President Estrada and other politicians singing "Let There Be Peace on Earth." Bea started laughing. To my surprise, she started to identify all the caricatures: Manny Villar, Cory Aquino, Chavit Singson, etc.

Which led me to ask if she was familiar with the impeachment trial. She said yes, and began narrating some of the highlights of the trial, remembering vividly the time Emma Lim told lawyer Estelito Mendoza that iced tea is not eaten but drunk.

I started to cross-examine her to see how much she knew of the trial. She answered that she sometimes watched during weekends with my mom and dad.

I asked her if she understood what it was all about. She answered that it was about the President's acceptance of *jueteng* money.

I asked her if she knew what *jueteng* was. She answered that it was gambling and it was bad.

I asked her if she understood everything that was said during the proceedings. She said she could follow the discussions except for some big words whose meaning she didn't know like "affix."

For me, the fact that Bea was able to identify the different political figures was already quite a surprise. That she watched the proceedings, which are a far cry from cartoons and MTV, and was able to discuss what was happening in accurate simplified detail, were mind-blowing.

It surely speaks of how much this trial has affected the nation that even a simple nine-year-old kid, who still watched cartoons and played with Barbie dolls, has taken an interest in watching the impeachment process. What I find truly amazing is that she understands what is going on and know that the President is facing charges for not doing the right thing.

The clincher came when I asked Bea if she thought Erap was guilty as charged. With childlike innocence and candor, she answered that she thought that he was lying when he claimed he could not have known about what was going on. She added that he was giving a bad example to people, with all his mansions and mistresses.

If a nine-year-old child can formulate her own opinion based on things she has seen on TV, why can't the rest of us do the same thing? If there is one thing Bea taught me, it is to look beyond the technicalities and to examine the bare facts.

The impeachment trial is not being followed only by the intellectuals or by the elite. Even children like Bea can grasp what is happening. The trial has seeped deep into our people's consciousness. It is my fervent wish that it will end in a such a way that children like Bea will grow up knowing that there is room for idealism in this world, that one does not get away with corruption and wrongdoing, and that doing the right thing is the only option.

*Amee R. Enriquez, 23, hopes to finish her master's degree in English Literature at the Ateneo de Manila University this year.*

# Scary post-acquittal scenario

THE PRO-ERAP senators who will vote to acquit President Estrada at the end of the impeachment trial, despite overwhelming evidence pointing to his guilt, may not realize it, but they will be opening a Pandora's box if they do so.

These senators were elected to represent the Filipino people in the Senate, but their actuations indicate that they are only representing their own interests. They probably expect that after acquitting Erap, they will be beneficiaries of his largesse amounting to at least P100 million per senator. These senators probably feel that they will not suffer any consequence for voting for acquittal. But they are in for a big surprise as they could reap the whirlwind.

Once President Estrada is acquitted, economic collapse will surely follow, for practically all businessmen whether local or foreign are not expected to invest in the country unless he is removed from office. Foreign financial institutions like the World Bank and the Asian Development Bank will refuse to lend us additional funds. The budget deficit will grow to gargantuan proportions, interest rates will rise to unprecedented heights, inflation will hit the roof and many businesses will collapse. As a consequence, thousands if not hundreds of thousands will lose their jobs, and in the economic hardship that will follow, people will be blaming and calling for the head not only of Erap but of the senators who voted to acquit him.

In the ensuing chaos, a military takeover is not farfetched, and to heed public clamor as well as for propaganda purposes, the military is bound to arrest not only President Estrada but also the pro-Erap senators to make themselves look good to the public.

These senators should think long and hard before acquitting Erap, for not only will they be destroying our democracy, they might also be destroying themselves in the process. If Erap is impeached, and in the euphoria that will surely follow, investments will pour in and economic recovery is a sure thing.—**RICARDO SANTIAGO, 7/F Philippine Stock Exchange Building, Exchange Road, Ortigas Center, Pasig City**

# One man's word against that of many witnesses

EVERYTHING the prosecution witnesses present as evidence is denied by President Estrada. He maintains that the witnesses lied.

Is this possible? Can Emma Lim, Clarissa Ocampo, Edgardo Espiritu, Perfecto Yasay, Ruben Almadro and several others lie all for the same purpose and all against one man? What are their motives?

If all 10 witnesses are liars, is Erap telling the truth? Surely any ordinary mortal would come to the conclusion that the greater possibility it that it is Erap who is lying and the other 10 are telling the truth. As Sherlock Holmes would say, "Elementary, my dear Watson."

That should be quite evident. It does not take a Ph.D. to realize who is telling the truth here. Our senators don't need to nitpick or hide behind technicalities to convict this most unworthy of presidents. If they vote for acquittal, or abstain, they will be soiling themselves with the same brush of graft and corruption. At the very least, in the eyes of the discerning public, they would have lowered themselves right down to the gutter.

We know that some of the senators are up for reelection. We know that they believe that we are a vocal minority and that the *masa* may still vote them into office no matter what. But what about the judgment of history? Forget the patronage or the millions that is expected to come from Erap and his cohorts. What is that compared to the country—our country?—**DOMINGO O. MANGAHAS, Xavierville, Quezon City**

# Behavior unbecoming a senator

IF there is anyone who should be banned from the impeachment court, it is none other than Sen. Miriam Defensor-Santiago for behavior unbecoming a senator. By ranting and raving and arbitrarily accusing anyone who stands in her way, she has single-handedly besmirched the image of the Senate and should be expelled from it.

This is not the first time Santiago has gone into hysterics on the Senate floor. Not too long ago she derisively called a witness "a lying little bastard" and in one of the Senate blue ribbon committee hearings she ordered a spectator to stop smiling because it bothered her.

I would like to remind the senator that the Senate is not her exclusive domain where she can do as she pleases. It is the people's Senate and each citizen of this republic has a constitutional right to be informed, to free expression and to due process.

What rankles even more, is that not one of the senators, including the presiding judge, dared question Santiago's unjustified hysterics. Where were the honorable senators to defend the constitutional rights of Dante Jimenez, Bettina Aboitiz and Rosanna Fores? And what standards are being observed when the senators themselves are guilty of the kind of "entertainment" Santiago abhors—laughing, talking, standing, eating, sleeping, texting etc. Do I see a double standard here? One for the high and mighty and another one for the lowly and powerless?

Perhaps the senators should also be reminded that the power and privileges they enjoy emanate from the people, and it is we, the people of the Philippines, who should demand leadership by example.

Once candidates are elected into office, they become servants of the people, paid to represent their interests with taxpayers money.—**NAME WITHHELD UPON REQUEST**

# Expelled with a chance to explain

DANTE Jimenez, Rosanna Tuason-Fores and Bettina Aboitiz were denied due process when they were expelled from the Senate gallery last Jan. 4. We agree that everyone must accord due respect to the impeachment court, but must this respect be accorded in a manner that denies the basic rights and dignity of ordinary citizens?

The three were unceremoniously led out of the Senate session hall without the chance to defend and explain their side. Can this respect be earned by having Jimenez, Fores and Aboitiz subjected to the *panduduro* of Sen. Miriam Defensor Santiago? If the GMA-7 cameraman was given the floor to explain the existence of the offending microphone, why were the three not given a similar opportunity?

It was plainly seen from the television coverage that the view from some sections of the gallery is obstructed by pillars. The fact that the three were leaning forward to follow the proceedings, or were actually standing, as alleged by Santiago should not be taken against them in such an arbitrary manner.

In the midst of this political crisis, the last thing we need is disregard or denial of the basic principle of due process in the highest levels of our government.—**ANTONIO ANDRE CALIZO, 183 Bolton-Rizal Sts., Davao City**

# Courage to do what is right

FILIPINOS have a reason to be grateful for the patriotism shown by Equitable PCI Bank executives when they decided to help expose the truth about President Estrada, his ill-gotten wealth and his abuse of power. They not only gave the House prosecutors what they wanted but also volunteered to let their managers, notably senior vice president Clarissa Ocampo, bring the damning bank record/papers and testify before the impeachment body. Without their cooperation, we would never have seen strong corroboration for Gov. Luis "Chavit" Singson's testimony on the hundreds of millions Estrada got as *jueteng* payola and bribe money, his profligacy and his immorality.

The Equitable PCI Bank management soon realized the extent of the President's abuse of his office and of the bank's branches and facilities to hide and launder billions of stolen money, and so, as Ocampo testified, the bank hastened to direct her to appear, even without a subpoena, before the impeachment body and tell all. I was deeply touched when I heard her testify that she appeared before the senators to tell the truth in the compliance with her duty to tell it, despite fear for her life and for her family because of "Malacañang and the recent bombings in the city."

Equitable PCI Bank has done a very great service to the people. I will close my accounts in other banks and deposit my money in the nearest Equitable PCI Bank branch. I hope rich and honest Filipinos will do the same, because this bank stands out as having the courage to do what is right. The least Filipinos can do is to trust it with their money.—**SILVERIO F. AQUINO, 29 Road 14 Project 8, Quezon City**

# Setback to Pasig River rehabilitation

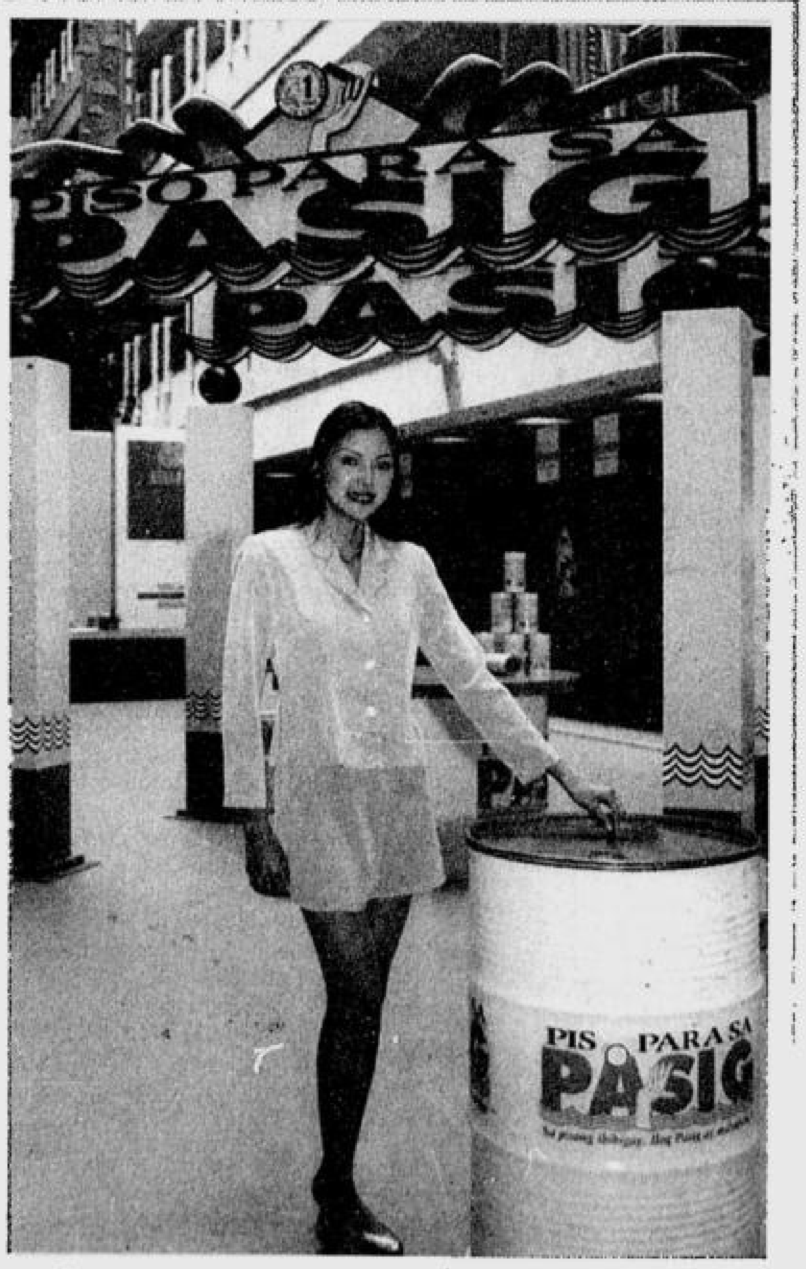
AS the leading private sector and a Pasig River rehabilitation advocate, the Clean & Green Foundation—Piso Para sa Pasig (C&GFI-PPP) fears that Metro Manila's escalating garbage problem will set back the ongoing Pasig River rehabilitation efforts.

The C&GFI-PPP noticed that there is an apparent increase in solid waste being thrown on the Pasig River as garbage in Metro Manila have largely been left uncollected now that the San Mateo Sanitary landfill and the Payatas dump have been closed and the proposed Semirara Island solution hit a snag.

This is a very unfortunate development and it endangers the river rehabilitation efforts of the past 10 years. Households located along the Pasig, Marikina and San Juan riverbanks might go back to throwing their garbage into the rivers because of the worsening collection backlog.

We therefore urge all concerned government agencies and local government units to resolve Metro Manila's garbage crisis soonest as it is already creating havoc on our rehabilitation efforts as well as the people's lives. The PPP also appeals to all Metro Manila residents not to worsen the problem by throwing garbage in the streets and rivers and creeks.

Lastly, we are asking Congress for a higher budgetary allocation for the Pasig River Rehabilitation Commission to push forward the efforts to bring back life to the Pasig River and restore it to its former glory and importance.—**RAMON JACINTO SOCCO JR., project director, Piso Para sa Pasig**



LETTERS

# Why the low tariff on imported rice?

WE find recent government statements that it has been discussing the possible replacement of quantitative restrictions on imported rice with tariffs to be initially set at 50 percent disturbing.

Given the inability of our locally produced rice to compete with cheap imported rice, replacing quantitative restrictions with tariffs set at such a low level would have dire consequences for our rice producers. The virtual lack of necessary rural infrastructure and other forms of state support, coupled with the already high subsidy levels for foreign rice producers, place our farmers at a huge disadvantage.

Setting initial tariffs at 50 percent would mean that, come negotiation time, when other countries ask us to reduce tariffs further, as they most certainly will, we would have to start at this low level. This will mean an accelerated removal of the protection now being enjoyed by the rice industry—long before our producers are ready for the expected avalanche of cheap imported rice—imperiling the entire industry and the millions of families engaged in rice production.

The government's Economic Coordinating Council (ECC) was right to reject the proposal. In fact, instead of setting tariffs at such a low level, the government should be negotiating for an extension of protection in order to buy our farmers more time to prepare for eventual competition. At the very least, we should plan for a longer schedule of tariff reduction.

With two-thirds of the labor force in agriculture, a big chunk of whom are in the rice and corn industry, we should think twice about opening up to competition, given the sectors' obvious vulnerability at present. More than this, rice being the country's main staple, it should not be treated as a mere negotiating tool in the coming World Trade Organization negotiations. With the food security of the entire nation at stake, can we really afford to take any unnecessary risks?—**ROVIK SANTIAGO OBANIL, Philippine Peasant Institute, Rm. 319 PSSC Bldg., Commonwealth Ave., 1104 Diliman, Quezon City**

# An investigation to find the truth

THE PRIMARY purpose of the impeachment trial is to determine if the President should be removed from office and disqualified from holding any public office. To attain this objective, the rules of procedure and evidence are liberally construed. Any attempt, therefore, by any party or lawyer to prevent or suppress the truth by resorting to technicalities defeats the purpose of the process. Technicalities, especially when invoked to restrain disclosures, impede the establishment of the truth and frustrate the ends of justice.

Technicalities are not to be used as the chief weapon to win a case. As one jurist said, the lawyers are not gladiators in combat but helpful assistants of the judge in a trial which is essentially a scientific investigation for the determination of the truth.—**LEON L. ASA, lawyer, Laurel Law Offices, 15/F JMT Corporate Condominium, ADB Ave., Ortigas Center, Pasig City**

# Are there real lotto winners?

IN THE LIGHT of the current "Juetengate" scandal, would it be farfetched for bettors in the lotto run by the Philippine Charity Sweepstakes Office to surmise that somebody orchestrates and manipulates the results of the lotteries so that when prizes reach P30 million or more a dummy is proclaimed winner?

Previously, the PCSO said the reason it could not heed the persistent public clamor for the identities of so-called winners had to do with assuring the security of those winners.

Is the betting public being duped again?—**BENJIE R. PANGAN, Mabalacat, Pampanga**

# Boycott?

**PINOY KASI**

*Michael L. Tan*

A call for a boycott of various companies and the government has been going around through e-mail. It starts with an expression of frustration over the impeachment trial, described as "a parade of good-looking witnesses and legal gobbledygook that do little to achieve conviction." To "unseat the evil that lurks in Malacañang," the statement calls for the boycott of several banks involved in money laundering. It moves on to "other crony companies and government controlled companies" as well as "businesses of Chinese-Filipino cronies," with a suggestion that they be sent back "to the Mainland where they belong." It then reiterates Jaime Cardinal Sin's call not to vote for any actor running in the May elections, as well as for a boycott of all products endorsed by these actor/politicians. Finally, there is a call to stop making payments or contributions to the Government Service Insurance System, Social Security System and Bureau of Internal Revenue.

The statement mentions KOMPIL at the end, but I doubt if it actually comes from any organized group. Nevertheless, I thought it would be good to look at what's said because it does reflect, to some extent, where the opposition is right now.

The "opposition" is not a monolith, but even with its diversity, I would have hoped that by now, we would have seen some kind of vision about where we are headed, and how we intend to reach our goals. That is not happening, and I'm sure this is a source of great joy for Erap's henchmen.

The boycott call, unfortunately, hews closely to the whole tenor of the anti-Erap movement, which is a tendency toward some kind of primitive ritual of exorcism. Don't get me wrong, I love the symbolism of exorcisms and the way this has been used, together with other innovative political protests such as the "Jericho March" and "Kariton ni Maria." But there is, too, a tendency to dichotomize, to project a world of good (read the opposition) and evil (read Erap and anyone connected with him).

Boycotts were once popular with consumer groups as a weapon against unethical and erring companies, but this has fallen from favor over the years as activists recognized the minimal impact these had. It's just far too difficult to get people to agree to a massive boycott and many of these companies are now so huge that you cannot really mount a total boycott. The local crony companies, for example, now have interlocking directorates and are involved in everything, from banks to schools, from fast food to drinking water.

Beyond those practical concerns, I'm distressed by the tendency of the boycott call to generalize and to stereotype. I notice that Sen. Loren Legarda-Leviste was named among the people to boycott; yet, among the four female senators, Legarda's probably the only one who continues to deserve being called a woman. I will admit I had my reservations when she first took office, but since then I have watched her take independent positions rather that jumping into other people's bandwagons. Her critical questions during the impeachment trial have won her many new fans (pardon the show-biz metaphor). My point is that we have to guard against stereotyping. If I wanted to use stereotypes, I could, for example, ask readers not to vote for any lawyer who runs for public office.

The call to stop payments to the GSIS, SSS and BIR constitutes civil disobedience, which is different from a consumer boycott. I think there will come a time when this could be appropriate, but let's be totally candid here. Haven't Filipinos, especially business people, been doing this for a long time now? Let's just make sure we don't confuse civil disobedience with tax evasion and the unwillingness to take care of employees' benefits.

There's a lot more to be said about the boycott statement. I will admit I cringed at the rationale for boycotting businesses of Chinese-Filipino cronies: "these one-syllable names only spell graft and corruption..." I will do a separate column about this hysteria over one-syllable surnames some time in the near future, but this early, I'd like to remind readers that Hitler came into power, and consolidated that power by using ethnic groups as scapegoats.

My point is that the boycott call, with its simplistic dichotomies of good and evil, isn't very Filipino. For all the talk about the gullible masses, the Filipino in the street is quite cynical of politics, and are not about to accept the opposition's "forces of good versus forces of evil" scenarios. They're wary of Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo and continue to give her approval ratings lower than Erap's. They're appalled (and entertained) by Erap's mistresses and mansions and sweetheart deals, but they ask too for assurances that future leaders will not be "learning" from Erap's mistakes and salting their loot out of the country instead, as Marcos did.

I'd say also that our Juan and Juana de la Cruzes aren't about to swallow Erap's equally simplistic show-biz world of heroes and villains. They'll humor him and applaud when he jokes about being a battered *bida* who will triumph in the end. But when they go home, they'll mutter in a gruff Erap-style voice, '*tang 'na*, knowing all too well who's being beaten up. People will play the game, line up for the Erap shopping bags and find ways to bargain for a new road, or a new health center, while Erap and the politicians are still ripe for the picking.

Call me old-fashioned, but for long-term change, I think rallies and strikes, properly timed, together with political education—whether through mass media, symposia, community meetings or e-group discussions on the Internet—are far more effective than boycotts. The boycott move tells us to take show-biz personalities out of politics. Political education teaches people to recognize that with or without actors and actresses as politicians, we have to take the show biz out of politics.

# When lawyers lie

THE WITNESSES in the trial of the President swear to "tell the truth, the whole truth and nothing but the truth." Except for a few, most of the witnesses were perceived by many as telling the truth. Their testimony stood the test of cross-examination by the defense lawyers. This is true especially of those whose lives (and those of their loved ones) were put in great danger after testifying. Many of them are now living in fear and have gone into hiding.

It is understandable if some witnesses lie, like the ledger or "*listahan*" keeper, or if the accused, the President, calls his accusers liars. But what would be disastrous to the nation is if prosecution or defense lawyers or even senator-judges resort to lies. A retired Supreme Court Justice once said that while the lawyers in trials should do their best to protect and uphold the rights of their clients, they are not supposed to lie for their clients.

Last week, millions of TV viewers and radio listeners, the senator-judges, Supreme Court Chief Justice Hilario Davide Jr. himself, the media covering the trial and the "live" audience in the Senate were witness to plain lying by defense lawyer Sigfried Fortun in the middle of his cross-examination of Maria Caridad Rodenas about the "Delia Rajas" who withdrew P40 million from the Mandaluyong branch of Land Bank.

Sgfried Fortun lied, plain and simple. He knew very well that the Rajas in the audience whom his brother Raymond contacted the night before, was not the "Rajas" that he and Rodenas were talking about.

Lies told by witnesses can result in injustice. The same is true when lawyers for the defense or prosecution resort to lies to advance the cause of their clients.

What would be worse is if senator-judges contribute to the lies. To the lie of lawyer Sigfried, several senator-judges reacted with violent outrage. They called the lawyer's mendacity a "dirty trick," "a breach of ethical conduct," "lack of candor," etc. But Sen. Miriam Defensor-Santiago, who never fails to seize any chance to remind her audience of her glorious past and to display her eloquence and erudition, and whose eagle eyes noticed a man and two women in the gallery looking at her "provocatively," was blind to the evil in the deed taking place right in front of her. She described Fortun's lie as something "flamboyant." At worst, she called it "unconventional."—**NING SANTOS, member, Kangkong Brigade, 46 Simoun St., Quezon City**

# *The* WORLD

MARGOT J. BATERINA, Editor

## EL SALVADOR QUAKE

# Needed: 3,000 coffins for victims

**SAN SALVADOR–Salvadoran President Francisco Flores Sunday asked for 3,000 coffins to be donated, as rescuers all but abandoned hope of finding further survivors amid the devastation wrought by a killer quake.**

Late Sunday, officials said 349 people had died in the tiny Central American country, but the death toll rose by the hour as more bodies were retrieved and hundreds of people were still missing.

In addition, 1,177 people were reported injured, and 11,057 were forced to abandon their homes.

International aid started pouring in, and UN Secretary General Kofi Annan joined Flores in calling for a major international effort to ease the tragedy that had struck this impoverished nation.

"We have asked the government of Colombia to donate 3,000 coffins, to put them at the disposal of people who cannot afford them," Flores said at a news conference.

Amid the grim devastation, the rescue of a lone survivor at one scene of rescue operations boosted the flagging spirits of exhausted and emergency teams, who had retrieved one mangled body after another.

Sergio Armando Moreno, 22, was evidently in shock as rescuers carried him to hospital after removing tons of earth and huge slabs of concrete that had threatened to collapse over him.

He had spent about 30 hours trapped by the landslide that devastated the entire Las Colinas neighborhood of Santa Tecla, just outside the capital.

As the rescue operation was under way, emergency teams managed to talk to Moreno, put him on a drip and give him oxygen.

Many residents were out of their homes when the quake hit, but many more were trapped inside their homes when the mountainside came crashing down, smashing or burying everything in its path.

Red Cross officials said more than 1,000 bodies remained buried under the landslide that covered and smashed about 300 houses.

"It is nearly impossible that there are more survivors, given the incredible amount of earth that has fallen on the houses, practically crushing them," said Claudia Salazar of Guatemala's fire department, who was helping the rescue effort.

Thousands of volunteers braved the heat, the dust and the aftershocks, using shovels and buckets to remove the rubble, working alongside huge earth-moving machines. *AFP*

FLORES

## 'It began with a scream'

SANTA TECLA, El Salvador—First there was a blood-chilling scream from atop the mountain. Within moments, a wall of earth was crashing down onto the middle-class neighborhood of Las Colinas below.

When the dust cleared, nothing was left of Las Colinas but a flat plain, its silence punctuated by the wails of the injured.

Hundreds disappeared below the mass of dirt: A woman walking to the store for some eggs. A 12-year-old boy waiting at home for a phone call from his father in Kansas. Three 5-year-olds riding the bicycles they received for Christmas.

Workers at a temporary morgue set up near the landslide said 182 bodies had been pulled from the dirt and rubble, and most of the 1,000 people still missing nationwide are believed to have disappeared here.

Some were trapped below ground, in agony but alive. Rescuers on Sunday frantically dug with earth-movers, with shovels, with their bare hands to extract horribly mangled corpses—and at least three people who had miraculously survived.

It began at 11:35 a.m. Saturday with a scream. Julio Antonio Ramirez, a bodyguard for a wealthy American woman who lives in a columned white mansion at the top of the hill, was standing in the yard when he heard it.

The earth had begun to shake, lightly at first, but then with a sudden jolt. Someone in a house at the top of the hill let out a desperate scream, and almost simultaneously, the hillside gave way in a giant explosion.

Next came silence.

And then the grotesque wails of the injured.

"The cries were terrible," he said. "I thought, 'this is the end of the road.'"

The dust cloud was so fierce that for a half-hour Ramirez couldn't see a thing. When it began to clear he couldn't believe his eyes.

The neighborhood below was now a plain of dirt. There was no way of telling where the streets had run, where the houses had stood.

All were buried below three stories of dirt.

Miguel Angel Ortega, a 34-year-old importer, was already racing home. He had gone to his ranch to tend to his horses and when the earthquake stuck, his only thought was to reach his three sons and his wife. **AP**

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**ORIGIN: MANILA**

| DESTINATION | FLT NO. | FREQ. | ETD | ETA | ONE-WAY FARES NORMAL | VALUE |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| CEBU | 5J - 559 | Daily | 0500 | 0610 | | |
| | 5J - 451/161* | Daily | 0510 | 0725 | | |
| | 5J - 561 | Daily | 0700 | 0810 | | |
| | 5J - 563 | Daily | 0900 | 1010 | P2,309 | P2,099 |
| | 5J - 565 | Daily | 1100 | 1210 | | |
| | 5J - 567 | Daily | 1300 | 1410 | | |
| | 5J - 569 | Daily | 1500 | 1610 | | |
| | 5J - 571 | Daily | 1700 | 1810 | | |
| DAVAO | 5J - 961 | Daily | 0500 | 0640 | | |
| | 5J - 963 | Daily | 0700 | 0840 | | |
| | 5J - 965 | Daily | 1240 | 1420 | P3,307 | P2,649 |
| | 5J - 567/597** | Daily | 1300 | 1530 | | |
| | 5J - 967 | Daily | 1510 | 1650 | | |
| CAGAYAN de ORO | 5J - 381 | Daily | 0510 | 0635 | | |
| | 5J - 383 | Daily | 0930 | 1055 | P3,295 | P2,649 |
| | 5J - 385 | Daily | 1100 | 1225 | | |
| TACLOBAN | 5J - 651 | Daily | 0610 | 0720 | | |
| | 5J - 655 | Daily | 1210 | 1320 | P2,449 | P2,199 |
| | 5J - 657 | Daily | 1400 | 1510 | | |
| ILOILO | 5J - 451 | Daily | 0510 | 0610 | | |
| | 5J - 453+ | Daily | 0650 | 0750 | P2,199 | P1,999 |
| | 5J - 455 | Daily | 0950 | 1050 | | |
| | 5J - 457 | Daily | 1420 | 1520 | | |
| BACOLOD | 5J - 473 | M/T/Th/Sat | 0530 | 0630 | | |
| | 5J - 473 | W/F/Sun | 0620 | 0720 | P2,199 | P1,999 |
| | 5J - 475 | Daily | 1000 | 1100 | | |
| | 5J - 479 | Daily | 1630 | 1730 | | |
| ZAMBOANGA | 5J - 851 | Daily | 0600 | 0730 | P3,295 | P2,399 |
| | 5J - 563/431** | M/W/Th/Sat | 0900 | 1155 | | |
| ROXAS | 5J - 373 | Daily | 0530 | 0630 | P2,049 | P1,799 |
| DUMAGUETE | 5J - 627 | Daily | 1330 | 1440 | P2,449 | P2,099 |
| KALIBO | 5J - 339 | Daily | 0900 | 0950 | P2,309 | P2,099 |
| | 5J - 341+ | Daily | 1210 | 1300 | | |

*via Iloilo **via Cebu

**ORIGIN: CEBU**

| DESTINATION | FLT NO. | FREQ. | ETD | ETA | ONE-WAY FARES NORMAL | VALUE |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| MANILA | 5J - 560 | Daily | 0700 | 0810 | | |
| | 5J - 562 | Daily | 0900 | 1010 | | |
| | 5J - 564 | Daily | 1100 | 1210 | | |
| | 5J - 566 | Daily | 1300 | 1410 | P2,309 | P2,099 |
| | 5J - 568 | Daily | 1500 | 1610 | | |
| | 5J - 570 | Daily | 1700 | 1810 | | |
| | 5J - 164/462* | Daily | 1730 | 1945 | | |
| | 5J - 572 | Daily | 1900 | 2010 | | |
| DAVAO | 5J - 593 | M/W/F/Sun | 0810 | 0900 | P2,089 | P1,849 |
| | 5J - 597 | Daily | 1440 | 1530 | | |
| ZAMBOANGA | 5J - 431 | M/W/Th/Sat | 1100 | 1155 | P2,089 | P1,899 |
| ILOILO | 5J - 164 | Daily | 1730 | 1805 | P1,599 | P1,449 |
| BACOLOD | 5J - 126 | M/T/Th/Sat | 0830 | 0900 | P1,449 | P1,249 |
| KALIBO | 5J - 232 | T/F/Sun | 1120 | 1200 | P2,089 | P1,849 |

*via Iloilo

**ORIGIN: DAVAO**

| DESTINATION | FLT NO. | FREQ. | ETD | ETA | ONE-WAY FARES NORMAL | VALUE |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| MANILA | 5J - 962 | Daily | 0720 | 0900 | | |
| | 5J - 594/564* | M/W/F/Sun | 0940 | 1210 | | |
| | 5J - 964 | Daily | 1240 | 1420 | P3,307 | P2,649 |
| | 5J - 966 | Daily | 1500 | 1640 | | |
| | 5J - 968 | Daily | 1730 | 1910 | | |
| CEBU | 5J - 594 | M/W/F/Sun | 0940 | 1030 | P2,089 | P1,849 |
| | 5J - 598 | Daily | 1610 | 1700 | | |
| ILOILO | 5J - 598/164* | Daily | 1610 | 1805 | P3,023 | P2,579 |
| KALIBO | 5J - 594/232* | F/Sun | 0940 | 1200 | P3,588 | P2,599 |
| ZAMBOANGA | 5J - 393 | M/W/F/Sun | 0920 | 1020 | P2,199 | P1,899 |
| CAGAYAN de ORO | 5J - 182 | T/Th/Sat | 0920 | 0955 | P2,089 | P1,749 |

*via Cebu

**ORIGIN: CAGAYAN DE ORO**

| DESTINATION | FLT NO. | FREQ. | ETD | ETA | ONE-WAY FARES NORMAL | VALUE |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| MANILA | 5J - 382 | Daily | 0715 | 0840 | | |
| | 5J - 384 | Daily | 1135 | 1300 | P3,295 | P2,649 |
| | 5J - 386 | Daily | 1305 | 1430 | | |
| DAVAO | 5J - 181 | T/Th/Sat | 1035 | 1110 | P2,089 | P1,749 |

**ORIGIN: TACLOBAN**

| DESTINATION | FLT NO. | FREQ. | ETD | ETA | ONE-WAY FARES NORMAL | VALUE |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| MANILA | 5J - 652 | Daily | 0800 | 0910 | | |
| | 5J - 656 | Daily | 1400 | 1510 | P2,449 | P2,199 |
| | 5J - 658 | Daily | 1550 | 1700 | | |

**ORIGIN: ILOILO**

| DESTINATION | FLT NO. | FREQ. | ETD | ETA | ONE-WAY FARES NORMAL | VALUE |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| MANILA | 5J - 454+ | Daily | 0830 | 0930 | | |
| | 5J - 456 | Daily | 1130 | 1230 | P2,199 | P1,999 |
| | 5J - 458 | Daily | 1600 | 1700 | | |
| | 5J - 462 | Daily | 1845 | 1945 | | |
| CEBU | 5J - 161 | Daily | 0650 | 0725 | P1,599 | P1,449 |
| DAVAO | 5J - 161/593* | M/W/F/Sun | 0650 | 0900 | P3,023 | P2,579 |

*via Cebu

**ORIGIN: BACOLOD**

| DESTINATION | FLT NO. | FREQ. | ETD | ETA | ONE-WAY FARES NORMAL | VALUE |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| MANILA | 5J - 474 | M/T/Th/Sat | 0950 | 1050 | | |
| | 5J - 474 | W/F/Sun | 0810 | 0910 | | |
| | 5J - 476 | Daily | 1150 | 1250 | P2,199 | P1,999 |
| | 5J - 480 | Daily | 1820 | 1920 | | |
| CEBU | 5J - 125 | M/T/Th/Sat | 0720 | 0750 | P1,449 | P1,249 |

**ORIGIN: ZAMBOANGA**

| DESTINATION | FLT NO. | FREQ. | ETD | ETA | ONE-WAY FARES NORMAL | VALUE |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| MANILA | 5J - 852 | Daily | 0810 | 0940 | P3,295 | P2,399 |
| | 5J - 432/568* | M/W/Th/Sat | 1235 | 1610 | | |
| CEBU | 5J - 432 | M/W/Th/Sat | 1235 | 1330 | P2,089 | P1,899 |
| DAVAO | 5J - 394 | M/W/F/Sun | 1100 | 1200 | P2,199 | P1,899 |

*via Cebu

**ORIGIN: ROXAS**

| DESTINATION | FLT NO. | FREQ. | ETD | ETA | ONE-WAY FARES NORMAL | VALUE |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| MANILA | 5J - 374 | Daily | 0710 | 0810 | P2,049 | P1,799 |

**ORIGIN: DUMAGUETE**

| DESTINATION | FLT NO. | FREQ. | ETD | ETA | ONE-WAY FARES NORMAL | VALUE |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| MANILA | 5J - 628 | Daily | 1520 | 1630 | P2,449 | P2,099 |

**ORIGIN: KALIBO**

| DESTINATION | FLT NO. | FREQ. | ETD | ETA | ONE-WAY FARES NORMAL | VALUE |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| MANILA | 5J - 340 | Daily | 1030 | 1120 | P2,309 | P2,099 |
| | 5J - 342+ | Daily | 1340 | 1420 | | |
| CEBU | 5J - 231 | T/F/Sun | 1250 | 1330 | P2,089 | P1,849 |
| DAVAO | 5J - 231/597* | T/F/Sun | 1250 | 1530 | P3,588 | P2,599 |

*via Cebu

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FALUN GONG SECT

# China sends 242 leaders to camps

BEIJING—China said Monday courts have punished 242 organizers of the Falun Gong spiritual movement and an undisclosed number of followers have been sent to labor camps during the government's 18-month-old ban on the sect.

The rare disclosure by the government appeared aimed at countering claims that thousands of sect followers are in jails or labor camps and came in the wake of a major gathering of Falun Gong members this weekend in Hong Kong.

Since outlawing Falun Gong in July 1999, Beijing has infrequently provided figures on those punished by courts and never given an accurate tally of the numbers detained outside of the court system.

Under China's legal system, police have the authority to send suspects to labor camps for up to three years without trial. To combat the widely popular Falun Gong, China also set up special detention, or "transformation," centers to force sect members to recant.

Monday's figures, given by a spokesperson for China's Cabinet, were far from complete. In comments released by the official Xinhua News Agency, the unidentified spokesperson said 242 sect organizers have received "criminal punishment" but did not say what those punishments were.

Many leaders are known to have been imprisoned, with one organizer serving an 18-year jail sentence.

The Chinese spokesperson said Falun Gong members also have been sent to labor camps but gave no total. Most were sentenced for "taking part many times in disturbances, making trouble and disrupting social order," the spokesperson said. None are in camps "purely because they practiced Falun Gong."

Authorities offered reduced sentences and early release to some of the detained to "educate and save them to the maximum extent," the spokesperson said without explaining or providing figures.

China's government claims Falun Gong is a cult that threatened public order and communist rule and led more than 1,600 followers to their deaths, mostly by encouraging them to eschew modern medical treatment. *AP*

# Cambodia Senate OKs law to try K. Rouge

PHNOM PENH—Cambodia's senate Monday unanimously approved a draft law for a UN-backed genocide tribunal to try surviving leaders of the brutal 1970s Khmer Rouge regime.

The law, which was passed last week by the national assembly, provides for the involvement of foreign and local judges and prosecutors.

It still needs to be ratified by the Constitutional Council and King Norodom Sihanouk.

The Khmer Rouge tried to turn Cambodia into an agrarian utopia during its ruthless 1975-79 rule, and is accused of killing up to 1.7 million people.

The head of the government task force on the trial, Sok An, told reporters after the debate that he believed negotiations with the UN over a few sticking points in the legislation would be resolved soon.

UN spokesperson Fred Eckhard said Friday the UN's legal counsel, Hans Corell, had reviewed the text of the draft law and "found some discrepancies in relation to what was discussed in his visit to Phnom Penh last July."

Corell had written to Sok An, asking for clarification of "a number of relatively minor issues and a few more substantive ones", Eckhard said.

Sok An told reporters Monday: "I will reply to Mr. Hans Corell soon and I believe that the talks will end with agreement."

The Constitutional Council, which review the legislation within a month before submitting it to King Norodom Sihanouk for ratification. *AFP*

# Killing threatens Mideast dialogue

JERUSALEM—The abduction and murder of an Israeli settler and stiff Israeli military measures in response threw doubt Monday on the prospects of negotiations between the Palestinians and Israelis.

Israel rolled tanks toward Palestinian-controlled areas and cut the Gaza Strip into three isolated sections late Sunday after the Israeli, a farmer, was kidnapped while working in a greenhouse in the settlement of Kfar Yam.

The murder and resulting Israeli measures exacerbated peace efforts. Palestinian anger over existing Israeli restrictions throughout the Palestinian areas had forced the postponement Sunday of talks between security officials.

The body of the settler, identified by Israel radio as Roni Tsalah, was found early Monday in an onion field at his settlement.

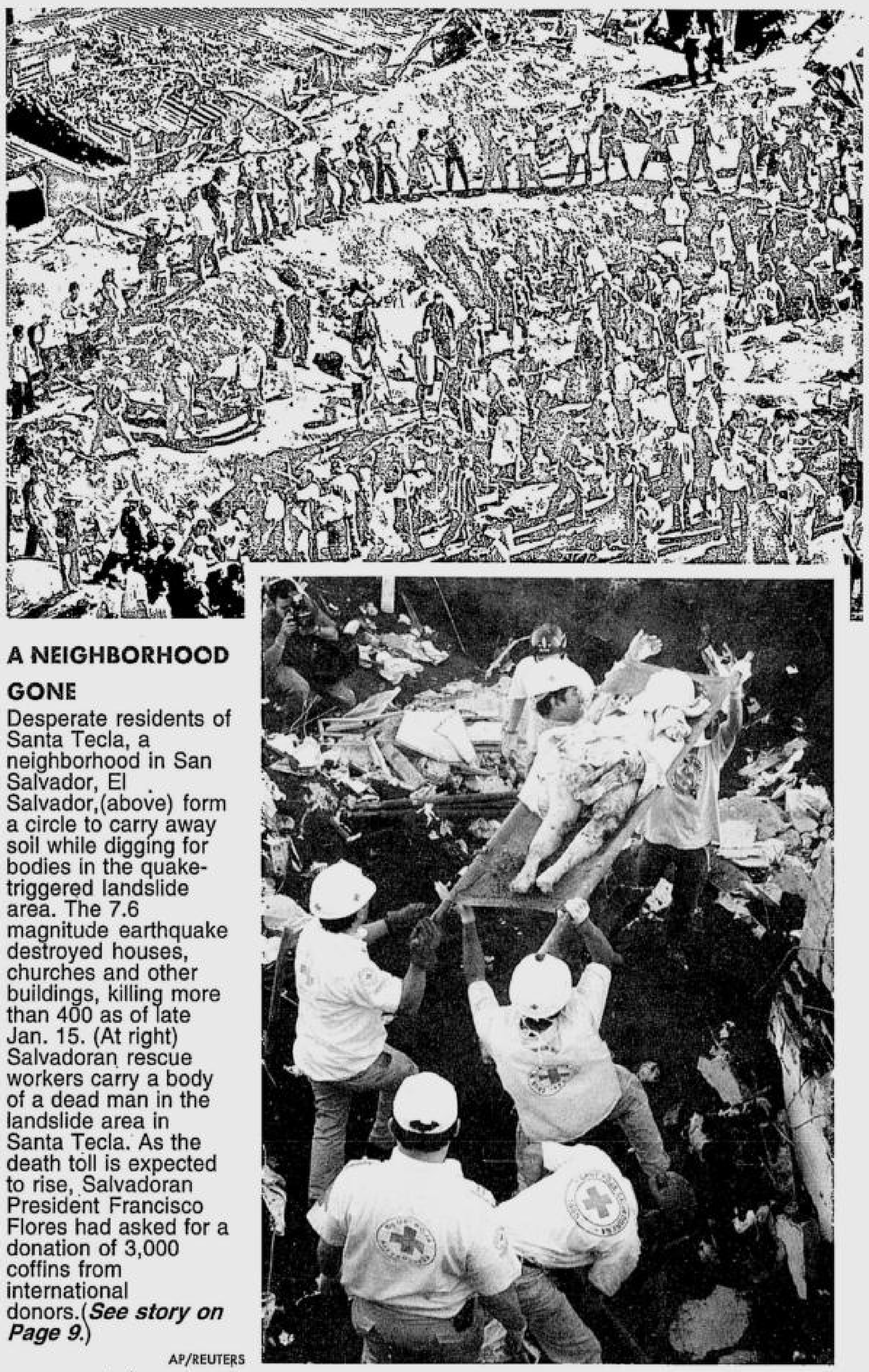
His car, carrying a locating transmitter, had been tracked to the Palestinian city of Khan Yunis. Local residents said the car was set on fire.

Israel radio said that Hamas, a radical Islamic group that opposes the peace process, had taken responsibility for the killing.

Israeli Deputy Defense Minister Ephraim Sneh said Monday that Palestinian security had been involved in the searches for Tsalah. The abduction had been carried out without the knowledge of officials in the Palestinian Authority, Sneh said.

Speaking before the announcement that Tsalah's body had been found, Sneh did not rule out the possibility that Israeli forces would enter Palestinian-controlled areas to find the settler.

Israeli tanks fired shells Sunday one landing 1.5 km from Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat's seaside office as military search parties lit up the sky with illumination shells; looking for Tsalah. *AP*



**A NEIGHBORHOOD GONE**

Desperate residents of Santa Tecla, a neighborhood in San Salvador, El Salvador,(above) form a circle to carry away soil while digging for bodies in the quake-triggered landslide area. The 7.6 magnitude earthquake destroyed houses, churches and other buildings, killing more than 400 as of late Jan. 15. (At right) Salvadoran rescue workers carry a body of a dead man in the landslide area in Santa Tecla. As the death toll is expected to rise, Salvadoran President Francisco Flores had asked for a donation of 3,000 coffins from international donors.(*See story on Page 9.*)

AP/REUTERS

# 9 S. Korean seamen die in ship blast

SEOUL—Nine South Korean seamen were killed or missing Monday after an explosion on a Panama-registered cargo ship which sank off the southern port of Pusan, officials said.

The 5,544-ton P. Harmony exploded and sank near the southern island of Koje on Monday morning, said SK Shipping Co., a South Korean company, which chartered the ship to carry oil products.

"The ship sank with 16 crew on board," SK spokesperson Lee Ji-Yong said. "The cause of the explosion is not known immediately."

South Korean maritime police and Navy boats and helicopters rushed to rescue seven people and recover three bodies, YTN, a cable news network, said.

Six other crew are still missing, it said, adding Navy boats were struggling to stop the spread of oil leaking from the vessel.

"We expect limited sea contamination as the ship was carrying 208 tons of fuel. Its cargo was already unloaded," Lee said. *AFP*

# Kostunica takes rap for meeting with Milosevic

BELGRADE—Political allies of Yugoslavia's new president and the UN war crimes tribunal that indicted his predecessor both criticized a weekend meeting between President Vojislav Kostunica and Slobodan Milosevic.

Several of Kostunica's allies in his pro-democracy alliance wondered why he would meet with Milosevic, who was ousted in October after a decade of growing economic misery and ethnic wars.

"Milosevic's place is in jail," said Zarko Korac, who leads a party in the alliance. "This meeting presents him like an important political figure who needs to be talked to."

A spokesperson for the war crimes court went further, suggesting Kostunica should have had Milosevic arrested.

"He knows Milosevic is a fugitive and he is aware of the obligation to arrest him," spokesperson Florence Hartmann said when asked to comment.

The meeting and the reaction underscored the tension between Belgrade and international officials—and among Yugoslavia's new leaders—over what to do about Milosevic and war crimes suspects.

The Netherlands-based UN tribunal wants Milosevic extradited to The Hague to face trial for alleged atrocities during the Serb crackdown on ethnic Albanians in Kosovo two years ago.

While a foe of Milosevic, Kostunica has expressed reservations about the UN tribunal, which he has said is politically motivated. Kostunica has indicated no plans to extradite Milosevic, but he and other Yugoslav officials have said he might be tried in Serbia on charges that could include war crimes.

US Sen. Joseph Biden, in the Bosnian capital Sarajevo on Sunday, said Kostunica had asked him what he thought of having Milosevic stand trial in Serbia, Yugoslavia's main republic.

The Delaware Democrat praised Kostunica's willingness to discuss the issue and suggested talks would be held with Yugoslav officials.

"They know that my government's position and my position is that Mr. Milosevic should be arrested and tried at The Hague," Biden said later in Pristina, the capital of Kosovo province. *AP*

# Suspect in hostel fire faces trial

BRISBANE, Australia—A fruit picker accused of starting an inferno that trapped and killed 15 young travelers was ordered Monday to stand trial on arson and murder charges.

The decision to try Robert Paul Long, 37, came seven months after a fire prosecutors claim was deliberately lit reduced the timber-framed Palace Backpackers Hostel to a charred shell.

Police had to use DNA testing and dental records to identify some of the bodies recovered from the hostel wreckage in Childers, a close-knit farming community 300 km north of Brisbane.

Long faces life imprisonment if convicted of setting fire to the hostel and the murder of two of the victims, Australian twins, Kelly and Stacey Slarke.

The 22-year-old twins were among six backpackers from Britain, four from Australia, two from the Netherlands and one each from Ireland, South Korea and Japan who died in the fire.

Long pleaded innocent to the charges in Friday. He will be tried at Brisbane Supreme Court. No date was immediately set for the trial.

Police have said they will wait until the two murder charges have been dealt with in court before deciding whether to charge him with the other 13 killings.

Monday's decision by magistrate Michael Halliday to send Long to trial followed two weeks of hearings at which prosecutors outlined their evidence.

Witnesses who testified at the hearing included survivors who clambered out of windows to escape the inferno and police officers who arrested Long and claimed that he confessed to starting the fire.

Long allegedly said: "I am dying anyway, I started that fire," according to an officer, who was not named for security reasons.

Police shot Long when he resisted arrest when captured near Childers five days after the blaze.

One backpacker staying at the Palace hostel on the night of the fire said he saw Long standing over a flaming trash can, others said Long had discussed burning down the hostel in the days leading up to the fire.

Prisoners who have been jailed with Long since his arrest also told the court he had admitted to them starting the blaze.

Long sat calmly throughout the sometimes harrowing evidence, barely saying a word until entering his plea on Friday. *AP*

13 1 2001
11:13:25

**DEATH BY FIRING SQUAD** REUTERS

This amateur video picture shot in Gaza shows the Jan. 13 execution of Majdi Mikkawi, convicted by Palestinian authorities for collaborating with Israeli forces. Mikkawi was executed inside a Gaza police station one day after Palestinian President Yasser Arafat ratified his death sentence. A security court had found Mikkawi guilty of providing Israel with information leading to the killing of four Palestinian political activists, one of them his uncle, on Nov. 22, 2000.

# 'Copter crash kills 9 among them UN staff

ULAN BATOR—Nine people, including United Nations staff, were killed when a helicopter carrying Mongolians and foreigners crashed about 1,000 km west of the Mongolian capital of Ulan Bator on Sunday. Five foreigners and four Mongolians, among them a member of parliament, were killed, while 14 others were injured, 10 of them seriously, government and UN officials said. The crash happened around noon in Malchin district, part of the mountainous province of Uvs in western Mongolia, while the helicopter was carrying 24 passengers, including members of the UN Disaster Assessment and Coordination Team inspecting relief needs in the wake of this winter's harsh weather.

The MI-8 helicopter, chartered by the UN from Mongolia's state airline MIAT, dropped from a cruising height of 50 m and exploded on impact, bursting into flames, according to Col. Datchuluun, an official with the state emergency office. *AFP*

# 2 homosexual couples apply legal loophole to get wed in Canada

TORONTO—Two gay couples married at a church here Sunday by using a loophole in a provincial marriage law, hoping to become the first legally married homosexual couples in Canada, and possibly the world, if the government registers their licenses.

Kevin Bourassa, 42, and Joe Varnell, 31, and Elaine Vautour, 43, and Anne Vautour, 38, took their vows at the Metropolitan Community Church of Toronto following the reading of Christian marriage banns.

In Canada, the federal government defines who can get married, but it is the provinces, which have the power to determine how people can get married.

The Ontario Marriage Act permits churches to issue marriage documents after the reading of marriage banns on the three preceding Sundays before the wedding if no lawful cause exists as to why the couple should not be legally married.

The banns list the intended couples' names and allow others to object in church if any legal causes do exist, such as someone is already married.

Section five of the provincial act states: "Any person who is of the age of majority may obtain a license or be married under the authority of the publication of banns, provided no lawful cause exists to hinder the solemnization."

After the couples read their vow and exchanged rings Sunday, Reverend Brent Hawkes said: "By the virtue of the power invested in me by the Ontario Marriage Act, I hereby declare them to be lawfully married."

Hawkes, who signed the marriage documents on an altar table, stressed that even if the provincial government refuses to register them the couples would still be legally married. *AFP*

# *Across the* NATION

TONY BERGONIA, Assistant Editor

## Ex-mayor, son held for murder of cop

CANLUBANG, Laguna—The former mayor of Mabitac town and his son, the incumbent town vice mayor, have been arrested separately by police after they were tagged as the prime suspects in the murder of a local police officer recently.

In a report to Chief Supt. Lucas Managuelod, Southern Tagalog regional police director, Supt. Wilfredo Dulay, acting provincial police director identified the suspects as Felix Carpio and his son Dudeo Carpio.

Victim SPO4 Francisco Lanting Garcia, Mabitac police deputy chief, was visiting his rice farm in Barangay Manguma in the early morning of Dec. 16 when two unidentified assailants believed to be inside a parked motorized tricycle fired several times at the officer, killing him instantly.

Police arrested the suspects on the basis of a warrant of arrest issued by Judge Nicolas Victor Padul Jr. of Branch 7 of the Mabitac Municipal Trial Court. ***Romulo Ponte, PDI Southern Luzon Bureau***

# Floods rampage through 3 Visayan cities, kill 3 people

By Carla Gomez
*PDI Visayas Bureau*

BACOLOD CITY—Heavy rains triggered floods in three Visayan cities yesterday, killing three persons and rendering thousands of families homeless.

Marjorie Salva, 36, and her 10-year-old daughter Roda were killed when a firewall of the New Silay City Lumber collapsed in Barangay Lantad, Silay.

Mercidita Dador, 58, died of a stroke after her relatives were unable to bring her to a hospital because of impassable roads, said Supt. Ricardo de la Paz, Silay City police chief.

Among those rescued were a mother and her newborn baby who were found on the rooftop of her house in Silay, 14.4 kilometers from Bacolod.

At least 12,700 persons were sent to evacuation centers. About 10,000 of them were from Victoria City, 34 kilometers from here. At least 2,105 were from Silay and 635 were from Talisay.

Silay City was transformed into a virtual river with water reaching about six feet deep, the worst in more than 25 years. The city was literally in the dark after the floods triggered a power outage.

Dozens of passengers were also stranded in the affected cities after traffic from northern Negros to Bacolod ground to a halt because of impassable roads.

Gov. Rafael Coscolluela said a combination of heavy rains and high tide aggravated the floods. But, he added, he would still order an investigation to determine if bad infrastructure or clogged drainage systems led to the flooding.

Jose Mari Vargas, Provincial Disaster Coordinating Council action officer, said *kayaks*, speedboats and rubber rafts were being used in rescue operations.

Three helicopters from the Armed Forces Visayas Command based in Cebu arrived to rescue people stranded on rooftops, he added.

Initial reports showed that 421 families or 2,015 individuals were brought to various evacuation centers in Silay after floods destroyed 19 houses and damaged 12.

Josefina Labatorio, provincial social welfare officer in Victorias, said the floods affected 16 barangays that forced many of the residents to climb to the roof of their houses where they were rescued.

She identified these villages as Barangays 1, 5, 6, 7, 9, 12, 13, 20, 15A, 16, 16A, 17, 18, 18A, 19, 19A.

In Talisay, Mayor Anthony Lizares said heavy rains that lasted until yesterday morning washed away four houses near the Minuluan Bridge.

The flooded areas in Talisay City were Barangays Bubog, 16, Zone 5 and Zone 6. But Lizares said the water had started to subside.

## Hazing returns to haunt PMA

FORT DEL PILAR, Baguio City—A freshman cadet has been under hospital care here for a burned tongue, the first hazing case that would confront newly installed Philippine Military Academy superintendent, Maj. Gen. Manuel Carranza Jr.

Sources here said the maltreatment of Cadet Fourth Class Rodel Gobarcho has been kept under wraps since October.

Even Armed Forces chief of staff Gen. Angelo Reyes, who presided over the turnover of the PMA administration here early this month, was unaware of Gobarcho's case after he cited outgoing PMA superintendent, Maj. Gen. Melchor Rosales, for uncovering "the roots of violence" in the PMA.

Rosales told the INQUIRER his citation referred to a review of the PMA's Fourth Class System, which led to a proposed revamp of this decades-old tradition.

This system, borrowed from outdated American military principles, grants the graduating cadet class control over its junior cadets, particularly the plebes, he explained.

But PMA sources said Rosales was himself unaware of injuries suffered by Gobarcho, whose tongue and thumb are healing from third-degree burns.

Gobarcho has been confined at the PMA hospital for nearly three months, although the cadet himself has not filed a complaint against his attackers.

His relatives, however, formally sought an investigation of his supposed maltreatment last Dec. 26.

A PMA source said Gobarcho was only one of several plebes who were cruelly burned by five senior cadets after they failed to elicit "the right stuff from them."

"His tongue was pressed with a hot electric iron because he was too meek," the source said.

PMA officials have reportedly started investigating Gobarcho's case but have yet to issue a statement on the matter. ***Vincent Cabreza, PDI Northern Luzon Bureau***

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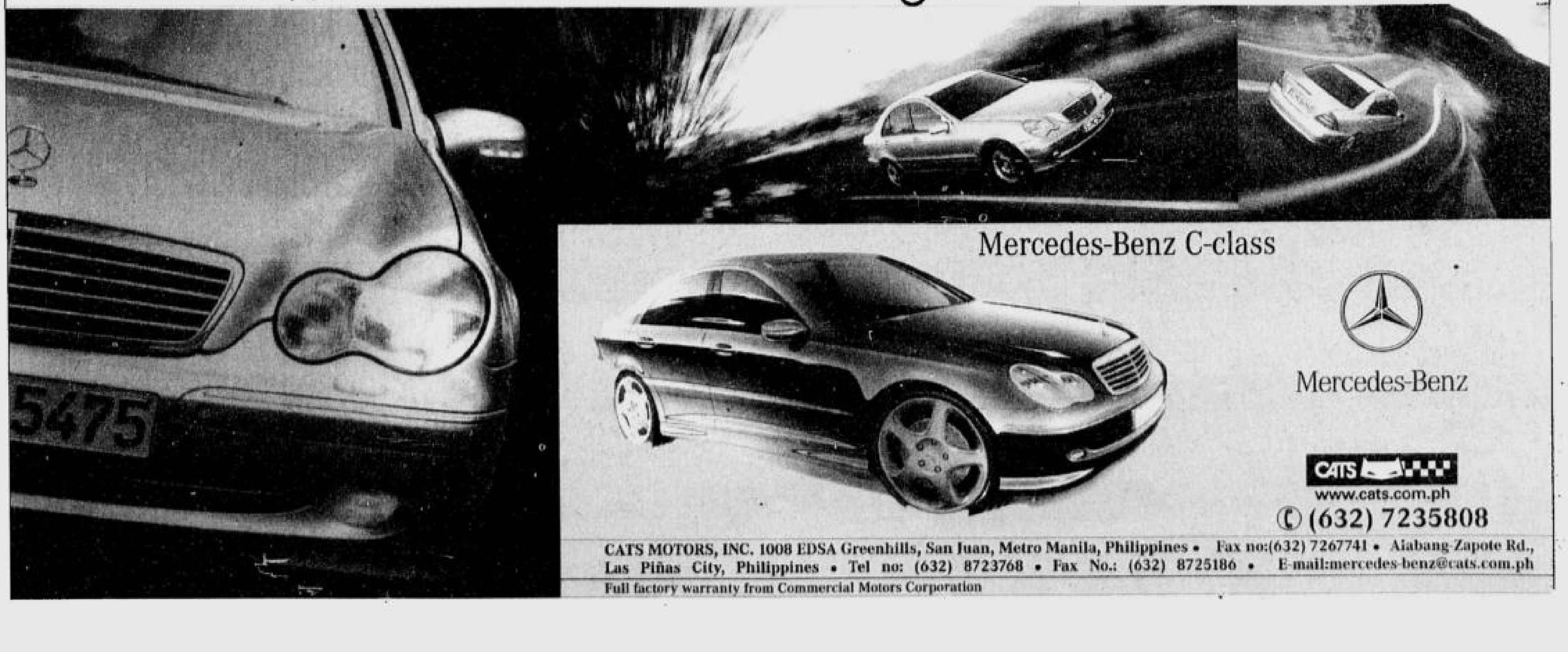
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# Solon seeks second look at use of incinerators

CLARK FIELD, Pampanga—The author of the Clean Air Act is now studying the possibility of lifting the ban on incinerators and instead using modern incinerators to solve the mounting garbage problem of Metro Manila.

Bukidnon Rep. Nereus Acosta said during the Second Philippine Forum at the Holiday Inn Resort here Saturday that the government should reconsider using "other technology, which includes modern incinerators," to prevent an epidemic due to the accumulation of garbage in Metro Manila.

He said garbage thrown every 500 meters in Metro Manila, especially along the C-5 Road, could bring diseases to Metro Manila residents.

Acosta said 6,000 to 8,000 tons of garbage is collected daily in Metro Manila.

"These are (equivalent to) about 2,000 trucks of garbage everyday. Imagine how many tons of garbage would be accumulated in a month. Metro Manila could be literally buried with garbage," he said.

As an immediate measure, the government should first look for a controlled dump similar to that of the San Mateo landfill, although the area lacks facilities like exhaust pipes for methane gas and layers to prevent waste from seeping into the ground, he said.

Acosta said although there is strong pressure from environmental groups like Greenpeace not to use incinerators, the government has no choice but find ways to prevent garbage from piling up on the streets.

He said there are safer technologies like the waste-to-energy incinerators that can burn garbage.

Incineration could not totally be banned because some wastes from hospitals and medical clinics have to be burned, he said.

*Jun Malig, PDI Central Luzon Desk*

SUNSETS in Boracay nowadays paint a portrait of gloom as the prospect of nearby Semirara Island becoming Metro Manila's dump still casts a pall of sadness and fear over one of the country's best beach resorts.

EDWIN BACASMAS

# *Antique, Boracay folk won't let guard down*

**By Hazel Villa**
*PDI Visayas Bureau*

SAN JOSE, Antique—Antique and Boracay residents are not letting their guards down even if the two barges full of garbage that came banging on their doors had returned to Metro Manila.

The Diocese of Antique will lead today a grand protest rally at the Evelio Javier Freedom Park here at 9 a.m. to dramatize their opposition to the proposal made by the Metro Manila Development Authority to dump garbage on Semirara Island.

The participants would include parishioners of the Diocese of Antique, members of the United Antiqueños, students, environmentalists from Iloilo and the Sagip Semirara, Sagip Boracay Multisectoral Group based in Boracay, Aklan.

"The departure of the barges is just an external manifestation of the issue on garbage. It does not mean that because the barges are already gone, the intention to dump garbage is also gone," said Rev. Fr. Rey Cazeñas, parish priest of Libertad and representative of the Diocese of Antique.

The two barges left Semirara Island at 3 p.m. and 6 p.m. of Saturday after the Semirara Coast Guard received an order from President Estrada that scrapped the landfill project on the island.

The Sagip Semirara, Sagip Boracay Multisectoral Group will leave Caticlan, Aklan at 3 a.m. today on board 30 vehicles for the caravan. The distance from Caticlan to San Jose is 370 kilometers.

The protest caravan will stop over in nine Antique towns on the way to the capital town of San Jose "to let the townsfolk know of our opposition to the garbage dump on Semirara," said Socorro Ruchanie Gadon, spokesperson of the Boracay group.

Yesterday, the lawyers of the United Antiqueños, the Office of the Solicitor General and the MMDA filed their respective summaries of arguments on the preliminary injunction sought by the United Antiqueños.

Judge Sylvia Jurao of the Antique Regional Trial Court would decide on the injunction on or before Jan. 18 when a 20-day temporary restraining order against the dumping lapses.

"We will file (a petition) for a permanent injunction when the preliminary injunction has been decided on. We are confident that they will never be able to dump garbage on Semirara again," said Robin Rubinos, counsel of the United Antiqueños.

The OSG and the MMDA did not send their representatives yesterday but had their summaries sent by couriers.

# Pelaez: Kidnappers suffered more

## 'They kidnapped me out of sheer poverty'

CAGAYAN DE ORO CITY—Amid much rejoicing and Christmas carol songs, banker Enrique Pelaez, 49, went home to the arms of his family and relatives who have waited and prayed for his safety during his 51 days of captivity in Iligan City.

Pelaez on Saturday escaped from his kidnappers who kept him in an apartment in Rosario Heights, a residential subdivision in Iligan City.

"I lost weight. I guess about 15 pounds," Pelaez told reporters after his arrival here Saturday night.

Pelaez, managing director of the Mindanao Development Bank, said his abductors gave him a daily diet of rice and fish during the entire period of his captivity.

"I cannot complain. My kidnappers suffered more. They have to secure me throughout the Ramadhan and Christmas," he said.

He said he discussed the problems of the Moro people with his kidnappers who were mostly Iranons and natives of Maguindanao.

"They kidnapped me out of sheer poverty," Pelaez said.

Police tagged Faisal Marahombsar, a known kidnap gang leader, as responsible for the abduction of Pelaez. Marahombsar is also allegedly responsible for the kidnapping of Dr. Epifania Asetre of Parang, Maguindanao.

Because he was not allowed outside the apartment, Pelaez said he engaged in mental games to keep his sanity. He later turned to religion.

Pelaez said he prayed together with his kidnappers during the Ramadhan and Christmas.

"God and Allah certainly did not like something bad to happen," his brother Ernie told the INQUIRER.

Pelaez grew a beard during his captivity vowing not to shave until he escaped or was rescued, according to Ernie.

The entire Pelaez family turned out to meet Enrique when he arrived at their residence in Barangay Carmen here Saturday night. The patriarch, former Vice President Emmanuel Pelaez, was in Manila.

Ernie told the INQUIRER that the kidnappers demanded P3.5 million for his brother's safe release.

But local politicians, trying to grab credit, also tried to negotiate. They allegedly offered the kidnappers bigger amounts of money allegedly on behalf of the Pelaez family.

The kidnappers stalled and demanded a P100-million ransom.

Cagayan de Oro Mayor Vicente Emano and Iligan City Franklin Quijano backed off from the negotiations.

After the negotiations were stalled, Maj. Gen. Roy Cimatu, chief of the Army's 4th Infantry Division, sent troops to scour Lanao del Sur where the kidnappers were believed to have brought Pelaez.

Cimatu also formed an elite Army unit to rescue Pelaez in case he would be found.

Ernie said the kidnappers misled the police and soldiers.

"They formed teams to mislead the police and soldiers. They went everywhere and allowed the police to follow them," he said.

As it turned out, Pelaez was held in Iligan City, some 90 kilometers away from Cagayan de Oro.

Ernie said they received two phone calls from his brother during his captivity and spoke with Marahombsar, the alleged gang leader, who introduced himself as "Malvar." *Froilan Gallardo, PDI Mindanao Bureau*

# UP stops experiment on genetic plants in Los Baños campus

LOS BAÑOS, Laguna—The University of the Philippines here has cancelled a permit issued for a proposed genetically modified rice experiment of the International Rice Research Institute within the university grounds.

"There are uncertainties on the safety of the genetic engineering technology so we believe (the) IRRI should confine its experiment on a controlled environment outside the university premises," said Dr. Casiano Abrigo Jr., UPLB's vice chancellor for planning and development in an interview with the INQUIRER.

A long-time partner of UPLB in agricultural research, the IRRI has long been issued a permit to use the close to 4,000-square-meter experimental station of the university for the open-field testing of the genetically engineered bacterial blight rice or BB rice.

Claiming that the UPLB "is neither anti-science nor anti-farmer," Abrigo said the revocation of the permit was meant to prevent the possible environmental and genetic contamination of neighboring farms posed by the "still immature technology."

"Genetic engineering is far from an exact science and can produce any number of unintended side effects," said the "BB Rice: IRRI's First Transgenic Field Test," a research report of civil society groups in Asia.

Genetically modified to resist bacterial blight disease, BB rice contains the controversial antibiotic resistance marker which even Gordon Conway, chair of the Rockefeller Foundation, refused to recommend for use because of its adverse effects on health and the environment.

Scientists allayed fears that a transfer of traits could occur from microorganisms to the genetic makeup of humans and cause unintended side effects.

"We are not barring (the) IRRI from conducting the experiment," said Abrigo. "But it has to be in a controlled area outside of the university premises."

Militant and moderate farmers' organizations have opposed the project, saying the technology would only benefit giant agrochemical firms.

Even if the technology is proven to be safe, the farmers still do not need it, according to the Asian research report.

Safe and alternative methods to combat bacterial blight are being practiced by farmers long before the introduction of the Green Revolution in the country, it added.

Dr. Robert Herdt, director of the Agricultural Sciences of the Rockefeller Foundation, has urged the use of conventional means of control, which he said are "effective and sustainable" and dismissed genetic engineering as "ineffective" against blight.

The Rockefeller Foundation and the Ford Foundation formed IRRI in 1960. *Dennis Maliwanag, PDI Southern Luzon Bureau*

# Live WW2 bomb scares villagers in Albay town

**By Rey Nasol**
*PDI Southern Luzon Bureau*

DARAGA, Albay—Residents of Barangay Upper Malabog here got the shock of their lives Saturday when they found a bomb at the back of their chapel, thinking that Abu Sayyaf terrorists had reached their village to spread terror.

"It could explode ahead of Mt. Mayon, my God," said Maria Longasa.

Gerry Manzanilla, another villager, said he was cleaning their property at the back of the village chapel when he accidentally hit what he thought was a tuber.

He was surprised to find a bomb.

The area where the bomb was found was near the houses of several residents and a public elementary school.

It was a World War II-vintage bomb, police said.

"It could kill people within a 150-meter radius, its effective range. It is capable of destroying almost half the village," said a bomb disposal expert.

The bomb weighs 500 pounds, is 53 inches long and has a circumference of 47 inches, and is as big as a man.

He said many residents scampered upon learning that it was a bomb.

"No one wanted to help us anymore because they were scared. Some teenagers helped only after we told them that the bomb can be diffused," the bomb expert said.

"Its (the bomb's) strength hasn't changed but this could not be detonated anymore because the stabilizer has been destroyed," the expert added.

# *Tribal elders' words weigh heavy on acts of Cordillera politicos*

**By Desiree Caluza**
*PDI Northern Luzon Bureau*

BAGUIO CITY—In tribal communities in the Cordilleras, the word of elders reign supreme. With this in mind, candidates for the May 14 elections belonging to the different Cordillera tribes are now seeking their elders' advice on their political plans.

Baguio City Mayor Mauricio Domogan, a member of the Bago and Kankanaey tribes, said when he first ran for public office in 1987, he felt it crucial to consult his elders.

"The elders have a great influence on political aspirants. Even now, I am not going to file my certificate of candidacy without consulting them first," Domogan told the INQUIRER.

After a dialogue with the elders in 1987, Domogan recalled that they performed a ritual called *id-idiw*, in which a chicken was slaughtered and its internal organs analyzed to reveal if the spirits favored the aspirant to seek public office.

The elders, Domogan said, prohibit two or more members of the tribe to run for the same position. The elders would meet the aspirants and ask them to talk and decide among themselves who should run for a certain position, he said.

Domogan added that it is important for tribe members not to bypass their elders on decision-making when joining politics.

Mt. Province Board Member Bryan Aliping said the elders of their tribe are considered intellectuals by virtue of their experience and wisdom.

"Our tribal elders may not have attended any formal schooling and yet, they are considered as the intellectuals of our place," Aliping, a Kankanaey from Bauko, Mt. Province, said.

In Mt. Province, the elders are the ones more interested in current events and social issues.

Aliping said they are also more articulate in discussing the issues in President Estrada's impeachment trial.

"President Estrada is not spared from Erap jokes (in tribal communities). Often, our elders would joke about how the President manages to provide for his mistresses. But later, they would say that there was no reason for them to complain because the President has the resources," Aliping said.

"Life goes on for others in the countryside. They are knowledgeable about the impeachment trial but they are just passive and just concentrate on farming instead. They, however, never forget to consult their elders," he said.

Both Domogan and Aliping agreed that the elders could not impose on tribe members the political party that they should join.

"The elders can suggest but the decision is left to us," Domogan said.

A Cordillera anthropologist, however, pointed out that consultation with traditional tribal leaders regarding the political plans of tribal members could not be applied to all tribes in the region.

"There are traditional tribal elders (who) do not touch politics but rather focus on the livelihood of their tribes. Unless it (political plan) affects them, that is when they can talk about it," the anthropologist said.

She said the present political structure in tribal communities in the region is no longer considered traditional and therefore, the consultation on political plans is not necessarily a tradition.

"We have new types of leadership in different groups. Our present political structure is just incorporated (in) the traditional system, so you have changes taking place," she said.

In earlier times, aside from the elders, it is the *baknangs* (rich people) who usually wield a major influence in the political decision-making in the community.

"Now, it is the money of political parties that influences the decision of some tribal members to run for public office," the anthropologist said.

# Nur refuses to seek reelection

COTABATO CITY—Gov. Nur Misuari of the Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao (ARMM) has not filed his candidacy for reelection in the belief that there will be no elections in the region in May this year.

"He intentionally did not file his candidacy because he believes there will be no elections," Mahendra Madjilon, chief of the ARMM's media bureau, told the INQUIRER in a telephone interview.

"What concerns Governor Misuari more is the full implementation of the 1996 peace agreement which calls for the establishment of a genuine autonomy in Southern Philippines," Madjilon said.

He said Misuari believes that an election for the leadership of ARMM should not take place as mandated by the peace accord.

The accord, he said, calls for the expansion of the four-province region to 13 provinces and 10 cities.

"He has no plans of filing (his) candidacy even if the scheduled election is postponed or the Comelec allowed those who failed to file to take the last trip," Madjilon said.

A bill resetting the ARMM elections and another scheduling a plebiscite for its expansion have been pending before the two chambers of Congress.

Four known political figures in the Maguindanao-Lanao areas, two of the four ARMM provinces, have filed their certificates of candidacies for governor before the Comelec in Central Mindanao.

Lawyer Clarita Callar, Comelec-Central Mindanao regional director, said three Maguindanaoans and a Maranao beat the Jan. 14 deadline for the filing of candidacies. *Edwin Fernandez, PDI Mindanao Bureau*

# Solve Batangas land row, DAR execs ordered

AGRARIAN Reform Secretary Horacio Morales Jr. has ordered the immediate resolution of a land dispute involving 153 farmers and worker-beneficiaries and the owners of Hacienda Palico, Hacienda Carmen and Central Azucarera de Don Pedro in Barangay Bilaran, Nasugbu, Batangas.

In a memorandum to the Social Concerns Staff headed by Director Dienrado Dimalibot, Morales also ordered the issuance of Certificates of Land Ownership Award (CLOAs) and the immediate installation of the beneficiaries inside the property.

The Social Concerns Staff is the office in the Department of Agrarian Reform (DAR) which handles issues considered "flashpoint" cases.

The beneficiaries, belonging to the Damayan ng mga Manggagawa sa Batangas (DAMBA), have asked the Department of Agrarian Reform (DAR) to physically install the beneficiaries in a 51-hectare property fenced off by the owners of the 514-hectare Hacienda Palico and the immediate issuance of CLOAs covering 58 hectares of the 200-hectare Hacienda Carmen.

# Estrada used carrot, stick on me–Yasay

(From page A1)

the incident to the police. He thought the bag contained a bomb.

- Tan tried to bribe him with 350,000 BW shares.
- The President told him on the phone to help his businessman friend Jaime Dichaves in his fight with Roberto Ongpin, apparently over the control of Belle Corp.
- The President again called him up to tell him to heed Dichaves' request not to grant a TRO (temporary restraining order) to minority stockholders of the PLDT because he (the President) had a commitment to foreign investors.

Yasay said that most of the threats, through phone calls, started when he exposed the BW stock market scandal and that these died down and then started again following reports that he would testify at the impeachment trial.

Yasay described Mr. Estrada as a "bully."

"My impression of the President is that he is a bully and if I had angered him, my life has been put in danger," he said.

### House seat

Yasay said the President offered him a congressional seat in December 1999 on the condition that he resign from the chairmanship of the SEC.

The offer included campaign funds and an assurance that he would run unopposed and chairmanship of a House committee.

"I have been offered to run for public office . . . and the offer that I received to run for public office came from the President of the Philippines that was communicated by the executive secretary, then Ronaldo Zamora," Yasay said.

Ironically, the revelation came during the cross-examination conducted by Raul Daza, a member of the President's defense panel, who had been tried to determine if Yasay had any other motives for taking the witness stand against the President.

Yasay added that Zamora had told him that the President did not want him to stay as SEC chair because the BW Resources scandal was dragging down Mr. Estrada's ratings.

"Zamora said that the President had already approved a plan for me to run as congressman in the first district of Davao," the former SEC chair said.

"And they will make sure that no other candidate will be running against me and that they will finance all my expenses with the campaign," Yasay said.

"Because they were sure that I was going to win the elections, I was going to be given a major chairmanship of a major committee in the House of Representatives once I sit after the next elections," he said.

Yasay said he refused the offer.

Daza then asked if the opposition made any offer after he resigned from the SEC. Yasay said there was none.

"I received only one offer and that was the offer of the President articulated to me then by Executive Secretary Zamora," he said.

Daza also asked him about the five calls—from Oct. 17 to Nov. 19—from the President that Yasay said were meant to pressure him to clear Tan.

The defense said that the President could not have influenced Yasay as the Philippine Stock Exchange (PSE) was conducting the probe of the BW Resources stock scandal.

To this, Yasay said Mr. Estrada apparently did not know that it was the PSE that was investigating the scandal.

### Propensity to do harm

Yasay said the "propensity of the President to do harm" to people who disobey him was what forced him to state in three TV Interviews that the President did not ask him to clear Dante Tan.

He said his biggest fear was not that he would be harmed, but that he would be harmed without his family or anyone knowing who did it to him.

Yasay made the revelation when Daza played the tapes of three TV interviews where he repeatedly denied his previous statement to the Senate committee on banks that the President had called him to order him to clear Tan.

Daza succeeded in airing the separate interviews conducted by Tina Monzon-Palma, Coco Alcuaz and Ted Failon where Yasay repeatedly said: "I did not say the President asked me to clear Dante Tan or BW. He never said that."

To prevent the erosion of Yasay's credibility because of the retraction, Prosecutor Raul Gonzalez asked him to explain why he made the denials in the TV interviews.

Yasay said that after he left the Senate investigation conducted by Sen. Raul Roco on Jan. 19, the cell phone in his car rang and there was a man's voice at the other end saying something in a foul language.

"You son of a bitch, you are lucky he is now the President, otherwise your body would have been found in a ditch," Yasay quoted the male caller as saying in Filipino.

When he got home, he received another call from the unidentified male caller at about 5:30 p.m.

"You son of a bitch, you better take care of yourself," the man said in Filipino.

A few minutes later at about 6 p.m., he said Tan called him up demanding to know why he divulged the pressure from the President to the Senate hearing.

"And I told Mr. Dante Tan that there's nothing I can do because I was under oath, and that's why I am forced to tell the truth," Yasay said.

He said Tan argued that Roco did not specifically asked him about the President's calls.

He said Tan strongly asked him to change his statement.

"*Hindi pwede yan, mas galit na galit si Presidente sa 'yo kaya baguhin mo yang* statement *mo. Baguhin mo* (That's not acceptable. The President is mad at you. So change your statement)," he quoted Tan as saying.

"And so that evening when I was called upon to attend that interview I had to make those statements," Yasay said.

But he said that a few days later, Roco asked him in another Senate committee hearing if he wanted to change his statement in the previous hearing because of his denial to the media.

"And I told him. 'No your honor, the statements I made at the last hearing were the truth, the whole truth and nothing but the truth and I will not change it," Yasay said.

Daza blocked Roco from asking Yasay to read his statement to the Senate banks committee as reflected in the transcript.

"*Sinabi ko na sa 'yo, bilisan nyo yang investigation at i-clear nyo si* Dante Tan. *Sino ba ang tatawagan ko sa* PSE (I told you, speed up the investigation and clear Dante Tan. Whom shall I call at the PSE)?" he quoted the President as saying.

### Extended trial

Senate President Aquilino Pimentel Jr. proposed longer hours for the impeachment trial to allow the prosecution panel to wrap up the presentation of evidence against the President.

"We can extend the hours from 2 p.m.-8 p.m. to 2 p.m.-10 p.m. or even 12 (midnight)," Pimentel said.

"The other alternative is to hold sessions on Saturday and Sunday of this week for the prosecution because I do not want them to say they cannot comply with their presentation of witnesses by Jan. 19 because they have no time," he said.

The prosecution panel is scheduled to end the presentation of evidence on Jan. 19. After that the defense panel wants 10 days to present its case.

"We're persuading them to cut down the 10 days to a shorter period so that before the 12th of February, we could see the end of this long drawn-out impeachment trial," Senate Majority Leader Francisco Tatad said.

Last night, prosecutors withdrew their requests to subpoena two hostile witnesses after noting that their presentation of evidence against the President can stand even without their testimonies.

Prosecutor Sergio Apostol identified the witnesses as Raul de Guzman, a brother-in-law of Mr. Estrada and Anton Prieto, a friend who allegedly aided in the collection of "jueteng" money.

Apostol said prosecutors decided not to call De Guzman after noting a medical report filed by Senate doctors indicating that he was suffering from severe circulatory problems and diabetes.

De Guzman is supposed to testify about his involvement in the Muslim Youth Foundation which the prosecution claims was created to launder the President's jueteng collections.

Prieto, on the other hand, had already appeared during the early days of the impeachment trial where he denied collecting jueteng money for the President.

The impeachment court received two pleadings from the defense panel that would block the opening of a "second envelope" pertaining to a statement of account for the alleged Jose Velarde account and an "amplification of the objection to the admission of the testimony of Clarissa Gray Ocampo."

Dichaves also filed his comment on a "show cause" order issued by the impeachment court.

The defense said that opening the "second envelope" was not warranted because "whatever interest (President Estrada) may have in St. Peter's Holdings is not alleged or covered in the Articles of Impeachment and, hence, is not within the jurisdiction of this impeachment court."

This was the same argument they used in opposing the admission of Ocampo's testimony. ***With reports from Cathy Yamsuan and Rocky Nazareno***

## *Yasay links BW mess to Dacer case*

By Juliet L. Javellana

PROSECUTION witness Perfecto Yasay yesterday said at the impeachment trial that witnesses were willing to testify that public relations man Salvador "Bubby" Dacer was abducted because he was willing to talk about the BW Resources stock scandal.

Yasay, former chair of the Securities and Exchange Commission, revealed the information when he was asked by Senator-Judge Loren Legarda-Leviste if he thought the abduction of Dacer was connected with the BW stock scandal.

Yasay said that Dacer, who was a friend of his, was hired as PR man by Dante Tan, owner of BW Resources.

Yasay said that in March last year Dacer wrote a letter to Tan "terminating his relationship as PR man of Dante Tan."

"And so your honor, the abduction of Bubby Dacer could have something to do as I feel it with his knowledge about what happened in BW," the former SEC chair said.

## *43 Erap accounts identified*

By Rocky Nazareno

HOUSE prosecutors have identified at least 43 accounts in 15 banks belonging to President Estrada, First Lady Luisa "Loi" Ejercito, the President's mistresses, as well as accounts of Mr. Estrada under the allegedly assumed names of Jose Velarde and Kelvin/Kevin Garcia.

The prosecution panel has subpoenaed documents from different branches of Bank of the Philippine Islands, Allied Bank, Bank of Commerce, Philippine National Bank, Equitable PCI Bank, Hong Kong and Shanghai Banking Corp., Metrobank, United Overseas Bank and Citibank.

Allied Bank-Ayala, Bank of Commerce-Ayala, Equitable PCI Bank-Makati Avenue, Hong Kong and Shanghai Bank, Metrobank Plaza, PNB-PNB Financial Center, UOB-Binondo and Citibank-Paseo de Roxas have all been asked to produce records pertaining to the accounts of the President, the First Lady, Jose Velarde, Guia Gomez, Joy Melendrez, Laarni Enriquez and Kelvin/Kevin Garcia.

According to a list obtained by the INQUIRER, the panel has subpoenaed records of at least two unnamed accounts: account no. 00686-5-05053-2 from BPI Katipunan-Loyola branch and account no. 000110-25409-9 from Equitable PCIB's Binondo Juan Luna branch.

# Narvasa . . .

(From page A1)

BW resources on July 2, 1999 was "regular, legal, aboveboard and legitimate."

"That is all I care to say about that. I do not want to go into the merits (of the loan)," Narvasa said.

Former Finance Secretary Edgardo Espiritu testified on Friday at the Senate impeachment trial that PNB granted the loan at the behest of the President who, he said, was a partner of Dante Tan in BW Resources.

Espiritu said BW Resources was granted the loan although it had no capacity to repay it.

A year after it obtained the loan, BW Resources racked up P49 million in unpaid interests.

PNB senior vice president Danilo C. Castro said in a memorandum dated Aug. 31, 2000 that losses of BW Resources in its online bingo and the unpaid interest prompted the gaming firm to seek a restructuring of the loan.

Bank records showed that Narvasa, who retired as Chief Justice on Nov. 30, 1998, was present during the board meeting that approved amendments to the loan.

In a five-page copy of the 2606th regular meeting of the PNB board obtained by the INQUIRER, Narvasa was listed as present together with vice chair and president Benjamin Palma Gil and directors Santiago Cua Jr., Roberto Marquez, Alfonso Reyno Jr., Miguel Romero, Gregorio Santayana III, Domingo Santiago Jr. and Cielo Santiago.

Also present during the meeting on July 16, 1999 were 20 other officials of the bank and its PNB subsidiaries.

The bank had found that the property offered as collateral, a 51-hectare property in Tagaytay, was "not acceptable" because it had "no right-of-way and road access."

Pending the establishment of right-of-way or road access to this property, BW instead offered 50 million of its shares as "additional collateral."

The 50 million BW shares were valued at P8.84 per share based on an average seven-week trading.

This jacked up the total number of BW shares offered as collateral to 100 million with an appraised value of P884,000.

Thirty million of these shares would be pledged outright with BW executing a deed of undertaking to deliver the balance of 70 million shares in three tranches—20 million on Aug. 2, 1999, 25 million "30 days from initial draw down date" and 25 million "60 days from initial draw down date."

### Unpaid interest

But in a memorandum to the bank's executive committee, PNB senior vice president Castro reported that BW Resources had "unpaid interest totaling P49,068,000 as of Aug. 16, 2000."

Castro said that BW's on-line bingo, which started on June 27, 1999, was drawing a lukewarm reception from the public.

"The bingo gaming did not perform as well as expected compared with the current lotto game of PCSO (Philippine Charity Sweepstakes Office)," he noted.

"From a high of P5 million at the onset, recent daily sales of the bingo game hardly reach P1 million," Castro said.

Based on audited financial statements of BW as of Dec. 31, 1999, gross revenues were recorded at P403,450,000, or an average sales of P2.157 million a day.

Because of the poor sales, the company posted a net loss of P172 million for the period.

Castro also informed the executive committee that representatives of BW and its prospective investors had met with PNB officials for the "possible restructuring of BW's principal of P600-million loan and capitalization of unpaid interests . . . into a 30-month loan inclusive of a grace period of six months on the principal."

But Castro noted that Tan was "being charged by the Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC) for complicity in the manipulation of the share price of BW, a publicly listed company."

"SEC submitted in July 2000 to the Department of Justice a report recommending the filing of criminal charges against Mr. Tan, among others, brought about by the stock fraud scandal," Castro said.

The shares of BW Resources, now renamed as Fairmont Holdings, rocketed 5,000 percent before dramatically collapsing in 1999. It peaked at P107 per share in October 1999. Fairmont closed at 68 centavos yesterday.

The SEC yesterday said it would also file charges of stock manipulation against 12 new brokers and 12 more individuals.

"We concluded investigations last month and we are poised to submit it. There are additional 12 new brokers and 12 more individuals. These are for stock manipulation," SEC Chair Lilia Bautista yesterday told reporters.

She the charges would be filed next week.

Asked if the SEC had strong evidence to back the charges, Bautista said: "We even have the dates when wash sales were done."

"This is in addition to 10 we submitted to the DOJ (Department of Justice) in our previous investigation," she said. ***With a report from Reuters***

# Key prosecution witnesses leave RP for 'safety'

(From page A1)

dian during the impeachment trial—assured the INQUIRER that the trust officer was in the country, Rep. Hernando Perez said she and Curato had left "for their own safety."

Ocampo and Curato, both of Equitable PCI Bank, had testified that President Estrada placed a P500-million trust investment with the bank last year even though he had declared assets of just P35 million.

Both said he held the trust account under the fictitious name of "Jose Velarde."

Tañada said Ocampo "left after she testified in December and returned to continue her testimony. Since Jan. 2, as far as I know, she has been here in the country."

"*Saan mo ba napulot 'yang info mo?* (Where did you pick up your info?)" he asked the INQUIRER.

But apart from the source close to Ocampo's family, at least two private lawyers working with the prosecution claimed Ocampo left after her testimony ended on Jan. 3. A lawyer on the staff of one of the private prosecutors said the banker left Jan. 9.

"She left out of fear. After her testimony, she wasn't coming home anymore. There were a lot of threatening phone calls so she decided to skip town until the trial is over," the source said.

Espiritu left for the United States last weekend because he has been receiving threats.

Defense lawyers may call Ocampo back to the witness stand if the impeachment court accepts as evidence a second envelope containing Equitable PCI Bank records proving the President maintained bank accounts under fictitious names.

Tañada and Rep.-Prosecutor Feliciano Belmonte made this bold prediction following the prosecution's motion requesting the opening of a second envelope submitted by Equitable PCI Bank.

### 'Big risk'

The envelope is believed to contain more bank records bolstering the prosecution's accusation that the President used aliases in opening accounts used to launder money from "jueteng."

The bank surrendered the documents to the impeachment court last month. But the President's lawyers rejected its possible inclusion in the proceedings, on grounds that they were immaterial to the case.

Tañada said the President's defenders faced a big risk if they insist on refusing to cross-examine Ocampo once the contents of the second envelope were bared in court.

"I think (things) will be brought to a head since the prosecution is now asking for the opening of the second envelope," Tañada said in an ambush interview.

"Of course, we will expect (Mr. Estrada's lawyers) to raise again the issues of materiality and relevance before the court when faced with the new evidence," he added.

### Expecting worst

Belmonte said the prosecution expected such vehement objections from the defense that "this issue (whether to open the second envelope) will eventually be decided by the full court, including the senator-judges."

The second bank envelope will be presented when the prosecution later this week concentrates on Article 2-B, otherwise known as the charge on unexplained wealth.

Discussion on the article has been deferred because of the continued opposition raised by defense lawyers who questioned its inclusion among the Articles of Impeachment.

Defense lawyers refused to cross-examine Ocampo when she took the stand, arguing that the subject of her testimony was not included among the charges in the original impeachment articles.

Chief Justice and Presiding Officer Hilario Davide Jr. eventually agreed to accept Ocampo's testimony—but only on the condition that her statement would be stricken off the record if the prosecution could not prove that the President's assets were ill-gotten.

### 'They let her go'

Prosecutors believe that Ocampo's testimony stands even if she was not cross-examined by defense lawyers.

"They let her go, they did not seize the opportunity to question her when they decided not to cross-examine her so that's their problem," Perez contended.

"Since the defense panel already waived its right to cross-examine Ocampo, she was subject to interrogation by the senators. Once it ended, her testimony has also ended," Perez said.

The prosecutor said he and Espiritu have been receiving death threats ever since he presented the key witness at the trial last week. He did not say who made the threats.

Prosecutor Joker Arroyo said last week that Estrada aides had been approaching potential witnesses and that one of them had since turned "hostile."

Presidential spokespersons have denied that Mr. Estrada was intimidating witnesses.

### 'We want him to live'

Espiritu said last week that Mr. Estrada told him he was reaping a fortune trading in the stock of a gaming firm while it was under investigation for alleged insider trading.

The former Cabinet man also charged that Mr. Estrada partied with smugglers at Malacañang and allowed them to wreak havoc on government finances by shielding them from the police.

In Bacolod City, an opposition congressman dismissed the claim of Ernesto Maceda, the President's spokesperson in the impeachment trial, that Espiritu's leaving the country was an indication of perjury.

"Maceda is deliberately trying to belittle Espiritu's testimony because it is obvious that it pulverized the President," said Negros Occidental Rep. Apolinario Lozada.

He said the prosecution still had six more "explosive witnesses" who would testify on Article Four, or on the charge that Mr. Estrada knowingly violated the Constitution.

He did not name them.

Lozada said it was no longer necessary for Espiritu to stay because he had finished testifying. "We want him to rest for a while, we would like to let him live longer," he said. ***With reports from Carla P. Gomez, PDI Visayas Bureau; TJ Burgonio; AFP***

# Contradictory statements pinned on death threats

(From page A1)

even forced to admit lapses in remembering the dates of the calls the President allegedly made to Yasay in connection with the BW Resources controversy.

The most glaring proof of Daza's unimpressive handling of the cross-examination was when he prematurely declared to the impeachment court that he was through with his questioning of Yasay.

Thanks to the quick reminder of another defense lawyer, Daza was able to withdraw that manifestation and confront Yasay with the statements he made in two television interviews that contradicted his earlier allegations that the President ordered him to clear Tan and BW from any culpability in stock manipulation.

In what may be considered a boo-boo, Daza tried to show that Yasay was biased against the President by asking if the opposition had offered him to run for public office under its banner.

Yasay's reply that it was the President, through then Executive Secretary Ronaldo Zamora, not the opposition, who offered to support him in his candidacy for a congressional seat in Davao del Sur, pulled the rug from under Daza. The embarrassed defense lawyer had to cut short his questioning in that direction.

Daza's style of cross-examination must have bored the senator-judges that many of them were seen either talking to each other, exchanging jokes or passing notes as his questions drifted toward getting Yasay's confirmation on statements the latter made during his direct examination.

### Contradictory

It was good Yasay admitted giving conflicting statements before the Senate blue ribbon committee and in television interviews when the BW stock scandal blew into the open in mid-January 1999.

There was no way he could deny the fact that when he testified before the Senate blue ribbon committee, he said the President was putting pressure on him to clear Dante Tan's name in the investigation. In the evening of that same day, he backtracked and made a 180-degree turn.

Whichever way the statements are read and compared, it cannot be denied that he sang two different tunes on the same subject matter in less than 12 hours. His credibility was put in serious doubt by his contradictory statements.

Yasay's claim that the death threats he allegedly received from an unknown person and Tan made him change his testimony is, to some extent, worthy of belief. Assuming the threats to be true, it is reasonable to believe that anybody who finds himself matched up against a close friend of the most powerful person in the country will have not second thoughts about doing or saying anything just to remove that perceived danger to his life.

Interestingly, none of the senator-judges made an effort to validate the alleged phoned-in threats to Yasay. The records of calls made to his cell phone could have been verified with the cellular company concerned. The identity of the people who made the threatening calls can be established from the call records.

No doubt, Yasay's belated explanation on why he made the conflicting statements will affect his credibility before the senator-judges. Did that threat really exist or was it a belated attempt on his part to extricate himself from the sticky position he found himself when he allowed himself to be interviewed after his testimony before the Senate blue ribbon committee?

Sen. Miriam Defensor-Santiago claimed Yasay's "retraction" would be fatal to his testimony. But Sen. Renato Cayetano, citing a ruling of the Supreme Court, stated that as long as the proper explanation was made on the difference in testimony, the intrinsic validity of Yasay's testimony would not be adversely affected.

It is up to the prosecution, when it submits its memorandum, to prove the truth of the circumstances cited by Yasay and show that the threats engendered a well-founded belief on his part about the safety of his life as to compel to change his statement.

### Impression

In answer to the questions raised by some senators, Yasay presented the image of a President who did not care about the country's economy as long his close friend gets off the hook in the BW scandal.

This impression jibes with the earlier testimony of former Finance Secretary Edgardo Espiritu that the President did not show any concern about the adverse effects to the national economy of his (the President's) efforts to have Tan cleared from any culpability in the BW controversy.

According to Yasay, the President blatantly interfered in the performance of the quasi-judicial activities of the SEC in violation of the law. The President supposedly gave instructions to him that Jaime Dichaves shall be his point person on all matters relating to the SEC.

To illustrate this point, Yasay cited two instances when Dichaves instructed him, and which instruction was later confirmed by the President, namely, not to help a certain Bobby Ongpin who had a corporate problem, and to refrain from issuing a restraining order against a group that wanted to take over the ownership of PLDT.

In addition to these testimonies that tend to prove the betrayal of trust charge against the President, Yasay painted a picture of the highest official of the land who, in order to get the best for his friends, did not hesitate to cajole, bribe or threaten a government official.

All these statements bear directly on acts allegedly committed by the President. It puts pressure on the President to personally deny them, otherwise they will stand in the records of the proceedings as unchallenged and therefore endowed with the character of credibility.

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER
SPORTS
AL S. MENDOZA, Editor ■ EDWIN M. VILLANUEVA, Assistant Editor

## Lyceum noses out PSBA

GARY David scored a season high 45 points and Dennis Rodriguez chipped in 10 including a huge three-pointer down the stretch as Lyceum of the Philippines edged Philippine School of Business Administration-QC, 74-73, yesterday to remain unbeaten in the 8th McDonald's-National Capital Region Athletic Association (NCRAA) seniors basketball tournament at the Lyceum gym.

## Stackhouse passes Bryant

AUBURN HILLS, Michigan—Bonzi Wells had a season-high 28 points and a career-high 14 rebounds as the Portland Trail Blazers beat Detroit, 103-96, the Pistons' fifth straight loss in the NBA Sunday night. Detroit's Jerry Stackhouse scored 41 points Sunday night on 13-of-18 shooting and moved past the Lakers' Kobe Bryant for the league scoring lead. Complete results: Toronto 107, Charlotte 99; Portland 103, Detroit 96; Miami 90, Chicago 81; Seattle 106, Phoenix 87. *AP*

### PLDT INT'L GOLFEST

## *108 players from 15 countries play at Wack Wack*

ABALOS

ONE hundred eight players from 15 countries start play today in the fourth PLDT Philippine International Junior Golf Championship at Wack Wack East in Mandaluyong City.

A colorful opening ceremony yesterday kicked off the action in the 72-hole tournament organized by Philippine Junior Golf Federation president Edgardo "Tito Boy" Cantada.

Wack Wack Golf and Country Club president Ben S. Abalos was the guest speaker in the opening rites. Abalos, a noted senior golfer, welcomed all the participants and their parents.

By tradition, Cantada, who conceptualized the event and launched it in Bacolod City in 1998, declared the tournament open. Noted PBA sportscaster Ed Picson was master of ceremonies.

Aside from host Philippines, the countries competing are the United States, People's Republic of China, Australia, Singapore, Malaysia, Guam, Sarawal, Sabah, Thailand, Indonesia, Sri Lanka, Hong Kong, Taiwan and South Korea.

The Philippine Long Distance Telephone Co. is the tournament's title sponsor.

Other sponsors are Cebu Pacific, Milo, Outback Steakhouse, Pisanti Golf, Bingo Bonanza, Biwon Korean Restaurant Pasay City, Mitsubishi Motors. Herma Group of Companies, Philippine Flour Mills, Apo Vinyl Tiles, UCPB General Insurance; Edsa Shangri-La, Morelia Tours.

Rizal Rep. Gilberto Duavit, Toyota Otis, General Aggregates and Concrete, 1st E Bank, Philippine Hattori Construction, Wellex Group of Companies, Sysu International, Hershey's Arce Dairy, Swift Hotdogs, Gatorade and Absolute botteld water, Nestea and Cowhead Milk.

## 11 MBA stars to RP squad

BY ROY LUARCA

THEY usually play for money. Now, they'll do it for their country.

John Ferriols, Eddie Laure and Stephen Padilla were among the 11 Metropolitan Basketball Association stalwarts and a Philippine Basketball League find named to the national team slated to play in at least four international tournaments, including the Kuala Lumpur Southeast Asian Games in September.

Negros' Ferriols, the MBA inaugural MVP, and All-Stars Laure of Batangas and Padilla of Cebu have yet to don the national colors though they have made their mark professionally.

In the same boat are San Juan's Chito Victolero and Cebu's Homer Se and Shark's Egay Echavez.

Also chosen by national coach David Zamar were Manila's Romel Adducul, who has been designated team captain, and Peter Martin, San Juan's Omanzie Rodriguez and Chris Calaguio and Negros' Ruben dela Rosa.

The 12th spot is being disputed by Negros' Johnedel Cardel, Pampanga's Junel Mendiola, Laguna's Biboy Simon and Purefoods' Rommel Daep.

All of the last four players, however, are included in the 24-man national pool formed by the Basketball Association of the Philippines after three weeks of tryouts at the Rizal Memorial Coliseum.

Completing the pool are amateur standouts Marc Pingris, Mc Caceres, Joshua Ramirez, Ronnie Zagala, Britt Reroma, Jon Tamayo, Roel Pazziuagan, Marren Padrones and Archer Calacar. Adducul, Martin and Dela Rosa were returnees from the Philippine team that retained its SEA Games crown in Brunei.

## Montaña favored

**GAMES TODAY** *(Makati Coliseum)*
3:30 p.m.—Ateneo-Pioneer vs Blu
5:30 p.m.—Hapee vs Montaña Jewels

MONTAÑA, baffled by the lethargic shows of its take-charge guys, looks for the winning ways against Hapee Toothpaste today in the PBL Challenge Cup semifinals at the Makati Coliseum.

The Jewels lost both their elimination games against the Sparklers but remain favored to win the 5:30 p.m. encounter.

Despite the so-so shows of PBA draftees Wowie Ybañez and Recaredo Calimag, the Jewels started their semis campaign on a high note by downing the Ateneo Blue Eagles last Saturday.

In the first game at 3:30 p.m., Ateneo-Pioneer meets Blu. Losses by Hapee and either Ateneo or Blu will shut the door on the 4-of-5 incentive. *Dennis Eroa*

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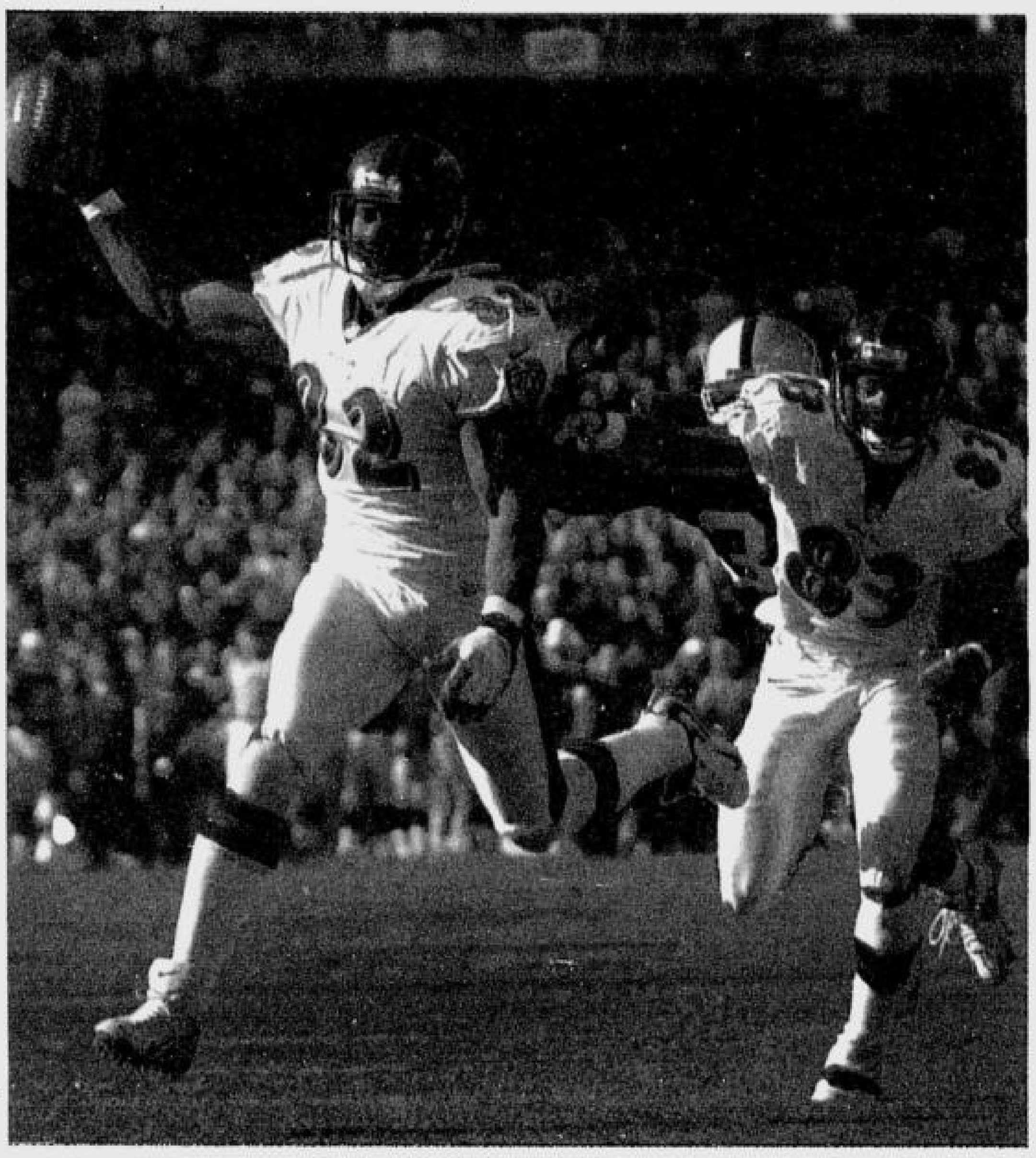

**BALTIMORE** Ravens tight end Shannon Sharpe (82) runs to the end zone while teammate Patrick Johnson (83) blocks Oakland Raiders Saftey Anthony Dorsett during a 96-yard touchdown reception in the second quarter of the AFC Championship game in Oakland, California, Sunday. The Ravens scored a 16-3 victory to set up a Super Bowl showdown on Jan. 28 with the New York Giants, who crushed the Minnesota Vikings, 41-0, in the NFC Championship. AP

## Giants vs Ravens in Super Bowl

EAST RUTHERFORD, New Jersey — It's a Giants-Ravens Super Bowl in 2001, after New York hammered Minnesota to take the NFC crown and Baltimore's defense held off Oakland for the AFC championship.

Giants quarterback Kerry Collins had a career-high five touchdown passes, sending New York to their first Super Bowl in a decade with a 41-0 romp Sunday past the hapless Minnesota Vikings—the biggest rout in National Football Conference championship history.

In Oakland, Ray Lewis, Jamie Sharper and Duane Starks shut down the Raiders, bringing the Ravens a 16-3 win.

While Collins was tying a playoff (not counting the Super Bowl) TD passing record set in 1943 by Sid Luckman, his teammates were having their way with an opponent that actually was favored. The Vikings, who rarely do well outdoors, were 2-point choices.

Minnesota instead became the first NFC championship shutout victim since the Giants beat Washington 17-0 en route to winning the Super Bowl following the 1986 season. It was the Vikings' first shutout loss since Dennis Green became coach in 1992. *AP*

## P10-M Roligon derby on

COCKING history begins at 3 p.m. today as the first batch out of more than 500 confirmed entries begin their quest in the richest, biggest and longest slashing event ever to be staged in the country—the P10-M Roligon 11th Grand Anniversary 7-Cock Derby.

Ninety exciting matches are lined-up with the first match set at 4 p.m. Buy-one-take-one ticket offer takes effect up to six in the evening.

Rolly Ligon's most ambitious project, the P10-M derby which will be held from Jan. 16 to Feb. 15 is a month-long celebration of Roligon Mega Cockpit's eleven years of innovative and record-breaking derby promotion.

Sponsored by Thunderbird Power Feeds and San Miguel Beer, the prize-rich event also stakes a brand new 4-door Toyota RAV-4 bonus for the champion and a P1,000,000 cash prize for the champion's handler.

### SPORTS ON TV

COMPILED BY LORENZO MANGUIAT

**TENNIS:** Australian Open, Elimination Round at 8 a.m. – 2 p.m. (r - 2 p.m.) on Sky Cable 17

ATP World Series Tournament - Qatar Open 2001, Finals at 12:30 p.m. on Star Sports

**BASKETBALL:** US NCAA – Georgetown Hoyas vs Seton Hall Pirates at 8 a.m. on ESPN

Chinese National Basketball League at 3 p.m. (r) on Star Sports

NBA - Toronto Raptors vs Boston Celtics at 5 p.m. (r) on ESPN

**BOWLING:** CGU Asian Bowling Tour 2000 – Grand Slam Finals, Final Leg, Semi-Final and Finals at 10 a.m. and 8:30 p.m. (r) on ESPN

**GOLF:** Nedbank Golf Challenge 2000, Day Two at 8 a.m. (r) on Star Sports

## Que gets DHL top seeding

**ANGELO Que seeks to fortify his place in history when he leads a cast vying for top honors today at the start of the 6th DHL-NGAP Amateur Open Golf championship at Canlubang South.**

Que, the reigning Philippine Amateur champion, can become only the third player to win the country's two majors in amateur play with a victory in the 72-hole event under the aegis of the National Golf Association of the Philippines.

### Delasin deadline

**PARTICIPANTS to the "A Day with Dorothy Delasin Part II" set tomorrow at Riviera's Langer have until 5 p.m. today to register at either NGAP through tel. 5256987 or 5245160. Delasin's participation is sponsored by Cinnabon Rolls, Shell, Citgo, Mizuno, Solahart, the Philippine Sports Commission and Riviera through Danny Pizarro and John Blanch. Tee-of time is 8 a.m.**

---

Only Gerald Rosales and Richard Sinfuego, who are both professionals now, have achieved both majors since the inception of the DHL Open six years ago..

Que got the top seeding due to the absence of defending champion Gerard Cantada, who will act as tournament director of the PLDT International golfest starting today at Wack Wack (see related story).

Que will be bannering a roster of 60 players, including six expatriates, who will dispute the top plum in the event that will feature a ladies division for the first time.

The 54-hole ladies competition, where Aileen Yao will be going for a back-to-back title,a week after claiming the Philippine Ladies Open at Wack Wack last week, starts tomorrow.

Rod Feliciano, DHL chair and president of the NGAP, will hit the ceremonial balls together with Joe Feliciano and Luigi Yulo before the first flight tees off.

"The addition of the women's event is long overdue. We have some new talents coming up so we also have to give them an event for exposure," said Feliciano.

Juvic Pagunsan and Solomon Gines, the frontliners of the Canlubang squad, are expected to be the main challengers of Que although the continuous training of Southwoods bets like Jerome Delariarte and Cookie LaO should also give them a good chance at winning.

Two other former national champs are seeing action, the comebacking Francis Gaston and Artemio Murakami. Ex-professionals Dave Hernandez and Rolly Viray will also try to use their familiarity with the layout.

### SPORTSWATCH

## Pak surges to 4-shot victory

ORLANDO, Florida—Washed up at 23? Se Ri Pak never thought so, and Sunday she gave the golf world a jolting reminder about the game that made her great during her first two years on tour. Fighting off nasty cold symptoms, Pak birdied seven of the last 11 holes Sunday and shot an 8-under-par 64 to pull away from Penny Hammel and Carin Koch and win the season-opening YourLife Vitamins LPGA Classic by four strokes. Filipinas Dorothy Delasin (72) and Jennifer Rosales (71) finished in a tie for 51st place with Aussie star Karrie Webb. Delasin and Rosales each won $2,717 (about P138,000).

## Furyk grabs Mercedes crown

KAPALUA, Hawaii—For Jim Furyk, the situation could not have been better. He was in Hawaii, in the wind and in need of a comeback. Playing for the first time since a freak wrist injury while tossing around a football, Furyk completed a four-stroke comeback Sunday by holing a 10-foot (3-meter) birdie putt on the 18th to win the Mercedes Championships by one stroke over Rory Sabbatini. Sabbatini had a chance to force a playoff after lagging his 45-foot (13-meter) eagle putt within 3 feet (1 meter).

## Seles needs just 5 minutes to win

MELBOURNE, Australia—Monica Seles became the first player to reach the second round of the Australian Open, winning in just five minutes Monday when Brie Rippner retired after spraining her left ankle. Seles, seeded fourth, led 1-0, 15-15 when Rippner withdrew after stumbling along the baseline and tumbling to the court. The tournament opened with mild, sunny weather and no upsets among the early matches. Defending champion Andre Agassi, seeded sixth, sailed through the first set in 19 minutes and went on to beat Jiri Vanek 6-0, 7-5, 6-3. *AP*

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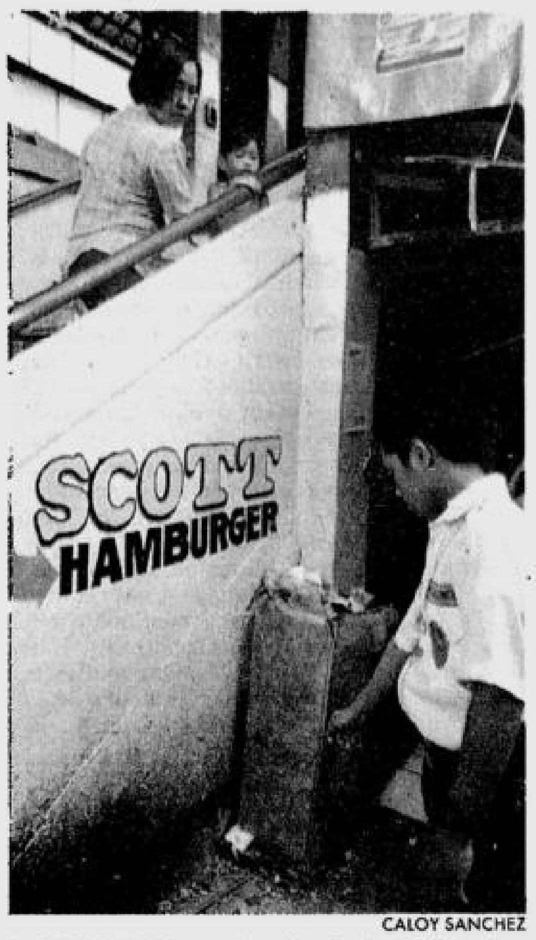
# METRO

LOUIE C. CAMINO, Editor



CALOY SANCHEZ

**A SECURITY** guard at the Pedro Gil station of the Light Rail Transit points to where a bomb, which turned out to be a dud, was supposedly discovered yesterday.

## Bomb scare at LRT alarms police anew

By Jerome Aning

**POLICE detonated yesterday what appeared to be a bomb planted near a Light Rail Transit station in Ermita, a short distance from the Manila police headquarters.**

The bomb later turned out to be a dud, police said.

Acting on a phone tip, the police located the "bomb" beside a hamburger stall near the LRT station on Pedro Gil Street corner Taft Avenue, Ermita, Manila yesterday morning.

The "bomb," a black cylindrical object measuring about 5 by 3 inches, was equipped with a pull ring and was discovered around 10 a.m. by Ernest Carson, a security officer at the station.

He quickly phoned the Western Police District's explosives and ordnance division for assistance.

Commuters and pedestrians at the LRT station panicked over reports that a bomb had been found in the vicinity.

A five-man EOD team led by Insp. Lorenzo Molato arrived at the scene within a few minutes and cordoned off the area. LRT operations were also halted for about half an hour.

Police said the cylinder, reportedly made of plastic and thought to be a document holder, was found between a pile of garbage and a pushcart on a catwalk near the station's north-bound staircase.

In his report, Insp. Molato said that after examining the cylinder, they attempted to detonate it by using a disruptor or disarming device. The cylinder was reduced to fragments and the EOD team ruled out that it contained any explosives.

In an interview, WPD director Chief Supt. Avelino Razon Jr. said he would be detailing policemen trained in handling bombs and explosives to all district police stations.

These policemen would complement EOD experts who would directly handle and dispose of any confirmed bomb, Razon explained.

The police general said the new "bomb detection and ID personnel" would save EOD experts time and fuel.

"Now we would be able to tell, at the station level, whether a suspicious package is indeed a bomb or not, and implement the appropriate measures," Razon told reporters.

The WPD chief added he is also planning to utilize barangay *tanods* to help policemen in evacuating and containing possible bomb sites.

The LRT bomb alert came about two weeks after five powerful explosions struck the metropolis on Dec. 30, killing 20 people and injuring about a hundred others.

Worst hit were the LRT station on Blumentritt and an Edsan bus in Cubao, Quezon City.

Since then, scores of bomb threats have been made on several LRT stations, public schools and business establishments in the city. All were dismissed as prank calls.

About 1 p.m. yesterday, employees of the Ever-Gotesco mall on C. M. Recto Avenue received a phone call from an unidentified man who claimed a bomb would explode inside the mall.

Frightened shoppers were immediately evacuated as explosives experts scoured the area.

The "bomb" turned out to be a box containing a pair of shoes.

## Sexy ads face ban in Manila

By Jerome Aning

MANILA councilors are mulling over a proposed ordinance that will ban all forms of advertisements "that tend to morally corrupt minors" from being posted on light posts, trees, paid ad spaces and public places.

Authored by sixth district Councilor Danilo Varona, the bill targets the billboards, posters, stickers and other advertising materials posted by owners and operators of motels, hostels, pension inns, apartelles and drive-in lodges.

Varona lamented that the ads are even seen on taxicabs, rooftops and building walls. He said the motels and similar establishments are openly promoting their services through announcements of cheap service rates and room features, which even minors can avail themselves of.

The alderman said the ads are not only eyesores but also directly promote prostitution and premarital sex, which have resulted in the destruction of the moral fiber and values of the youth as well as their future:

The committees on laws, youth and sports developments, and amusements and entertainment have approved the bill. It has been scheduled for second reading, where all councilors are expected to debate its provisions.

The youth committee said Varona's proposal is consistent with the local government code and the city's charter, which grant the council the power to make laws prohibiting activities inimical to the welfare and the morals of the inhabitants.

But the committee on laws expressed concern about the broad scope of the bill. According to the committee's report, the wide reach of the ban might impair the right of motels, particularly their freedom from restraints of trade and freedom of expression, which include the right to advertise.

Varona's bill specifies a one-year imprisonment or a P5,000-fine for an individual, or both if the court decides, meted on violators. But he wants the penalty doubled for owners and operators of the business establishment concerned.

### WHAT'S INSIDE

- **14 cops suspended for seaman's slay**
- **Sino human smugglers fall at Naia**
- **On Target: Atong Ang's other illegal activities**

A16

## Laarni's Star now a big attraction

By Christian V. Esguerra

SILVER LINING PAWNSHOP

**SCANDALMONGERS,** not wise men, are the ones being drawn to this "Star" in Malabon—a shopping mall said to be owned by Laarni Enriquez, President Estrada's favorite mistress.

EDWIN BACASMAS

MALABON has become a tourist destination, thanks to the current impeachment trial of President Estrada.

The town, known for its flooded streets even during the dry season, is the site of Star J Plaza, an 8-story commercial center, which is beginning to attract shoppers even from out of town.

Star J Plaza is believed to be owned by Mr. Estrada's favorite mistress Laarni Enriquez who fled last week to Hong Kong and then later on to the United States before a subpoena could be served on her to appear before the ongoing impeachment trial.

The curious who go to Star J apparently want to see for themselves the controversial property, said to be one of the gifts of Mr. Estrada to the former starlet, who is also suspected to be the recipient of other multimillion-peso properties in exclusive subdivisions in Metro Manila. But Mr. Estrada has consistently denied ownership of these properties, including the Boracay mansion in Quezon City, where Enriquez and her children by the President were said to have lived before mounting protests drove them out of the house.

Despite the denials, business has been brisk at the Star J, according to a saleslady who works there.

"We now have more customers from far places. They want to see Star J, which they usually read in the papers," she said.

Another employee makes the same observation and said that "shoppers even from other places sometimes visit the place."

She said Star J provided an alternative watering hole to residents of Malabon-Navotas, who belong to the C and D socio-economic class. These are the ones who often have to slither through traffic to get to the nearest shopping center—Gotesco Grand Center in Caloocan, she said.

Members of the media have also started to frequent the mall, hoping to gather juicy stories, she added.

The sudden influx of people coming to the shopping center has prompted the management of the mall to tighten security especially after the spate of deadly bombing incidents in Metro Manila last month.

When this reporter visited the place on Sunday, there were at least two members of the Malabon Police Special Weapons and Tactics unit at the narrow entrance of the mall.

Three security guards were carefully inspecting belongings of customers trooping to the commercial center.

"Security became very tight since the *jueteng* scandal. The owners do not want to take chances. Anybody can bomb our place," another saleslady said.

Star J Plaza is an imposing structure in the small fishing town of Malabon. Located just a few meters from the dilapidated town hall and standing in front of the crowded municipal wet-and-dry market, the commercial center features several stores, boutiques, billiard and bowling centers, videoke rooms, and an amusement center.

Garment stores, which used to have outlets in malls in Greenhills, have concentrated their operations in Star J.

"Business is not too good in Greenhills so we decided to just close our boutiques there and concentrate here," said one of the salesladies.

"In Star J, prices (of clothes) may be a little higher than in Greenhills. But we reap better profit anyway since we have regular customers," she added.

"Ma'am Laarni," as employees usually call the owner of Star J, used to visit the mall at least once a month before news came out that she owns several properties given to her by the President.

Since then, "Ma'am Laarni has not visited the mall," according to the saleslady.

She added that even Mr. Estrada was present during the inauguration of Star J. He was vice president then, she said.

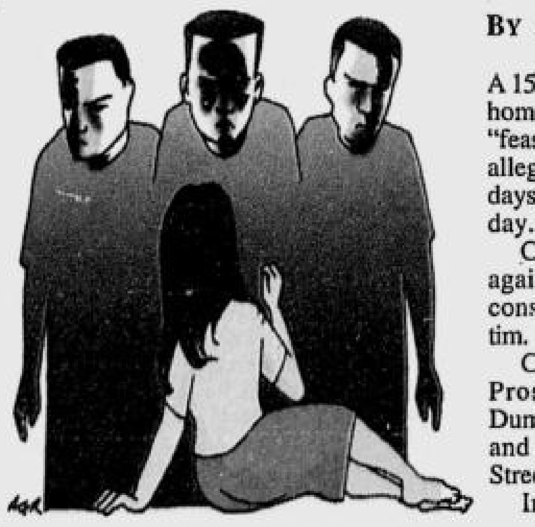
A civil engineer told the INQUIRER that Star J may indeed be owned by Mr. Estrada and Enriquez since the high-profile couple were said to have visited the mall often, usually at dawn, during its construction from January 1994 to December 1996.

He claimed to have been employed by G.E. Origenes & Associates Consulting Engineerings, the alleged project contractor.

But Star J employees hardly care who really owns the controversial property.

"We just want to earn, politics aside. This is our means of livelihood," a saleslady said.

## 3 brothers feast on runaway girl



By Christian V. Esguerra

A 15-YEAR-OLD girl who ran away from home on New Year's Eve ended up a "feast" for three drug addict brothers who allegedly took turns raping her for nine days in Caloocan, police reported yesterday.

Criminal charges have been filed against the three suspects for allegedly conspiring to detain and rape the victim.

Charged before the Caloocan City Prosecutor's Office were Nelson Dumaquita, 23, and his brothers Warlito and Atong, all residents of Wagwag Street, Bagong Barrio.

In a report to the Caloocan Police Women's and Children's Concern Desk, PO2 Johanna Lavarias said the suspects allegedly detained the victim in their house from Dec. 31, 2000 to Jan. 9, during which she was allegedly raped by Nelson on three occasions.

In a sworn statement, the victim said she ran away from home last Dec. 31 and tried to seek refuge in the house of her friend Janice Vega.

But the friend reportedly instructed the victim to wait for her in her boyfriend Warlito's house.

Vega never showed up and on Jan. 5 Nelson allegedly sneaked into the room where the victim was staying and abused her, the victim told police.

The following day, Nelson looked for a different venue to fulfill his carnal desires and dragged the victim to his room where he again allegedly forced himself on the young girl, police records showed.

Three days later, the victim claimed Nelson again raped her at gunpoint inside a room, with the knowledge of the suspects' brothers.

Nelson allegedly ordered the girl to undress as he started to lick the victim starting from her neck down to her body. The girl said she could not do anything since the suspect was pointing a gun at her head.

The victim claimed she was able to escape later in the evening as the suspects forgot to lock the door of the room, police said.

Wazzzzup?!!

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# Atong Ang's other illegal activities

ON TARGET

*Ramon Tulfo*

FORMER Finance Secretary Edgardo Espiritu's testimony at the impeachment trial has bolstered majority perception that President Erap has lost the moral authority to govern.

Espiritu told the impeachment court that Mr. Estrada owned part of the BW Resources Corp. which allegedly engaged in insider trading that nearly caused the collapse of the stock market.

Espiritu was one of the President's close confidants before he resigned in disgust over the corruption in the Estrada administration. His testimony, therefore, carried a lot of weight.

* * *

**The former finance chief said that he saw notorious smugglers hobnobbing with the President when he came visiting at the Palace.**

**Espiritu wanted increased collections by the Bureau of Customs but that was not possible because duties and taxes were not paid on incoming shipments because these were owned by the friends of the President.**

**Customs Commissioner Nelson Tan was dismissed by the President because he tried to go after big-time smugglers who happened to be close to Malacañang.**

* * *

Ask former Customs Commissioner Ramon Farolan who replaced Tan: smugglers were having a heyday at the piers during his time.

Farolán resigned ostensibly because the job was taking a toll on his health. But that was only one of the reasons.

A customs source said that Mr. Estrada's relatives were protecting some smugglers and that Farolan, whose integrity is legend, couldn't stomach it.

* * *

**On one occasion, according to my customs mole, presidential son Jinggoy Estrada invited Farolan to dinner. He thought it was a one-on-one affair.**

**But when the retired Air Force general arrived at the restaurant, he found Jinggoy and some notorious smugglers waiting for him. The young Estrada then one by one introduced the other guests to the customs chief.**

**Farolan, according to my source, asked permission to leave after taking a few bites.**

* * *

Mr. Estrada appointed Renato "Boy" Ampil, a customs broker, to replace Farolan.

Although Ampil is said to be the President's former classmate at the Ateneo, he was appointed based on a strong recommendation from Guia Gomez, one of Mr. Estrada's mistresses.

Because of Ampil's appointment, Gomez reportedly has very strong influence at the customs bureau in the matter of the release of highly dutiable cargoes.

* * *

**Charlie "Atong" Ang, the President's close friend and sidekick, was involved in the kidnappings of some rich Filipino-Chinese, according to crime crusader Teresita Ang-See.**

**But Mr. Estrada dismissed Ang-See's allegations, saying it was meant to destroy him at this time when he is being impeached.**

**PNP Chief Panfilo Lacson said he had received reports previously about Ang's involvement in kidnap-for-ransom syndicates.**

* * *

If Lacson knew about Ang's kidnap-for-ransom activities, why didn't he have him investigated?

The reason is simple: the President was protecting his friend.

* * *

**Ang is not only involved in illegal gambling like *masiao. He* is also a friend to some police characters, according to my sources.**

**The 40-year-old Ang held talks with the notorious Kuratong Baleleng gang, which staged many bank holdups and kidnappings in Metro Manila before Erap came to power. The talks resulted in the gang stopping its operations in the metropolis.**

**As a concession, my sources in the police and underworld say, "Kuratong" has confined itself to operating in Ozamiz City. The gang smuggles sugar and rice with impunity, a result of *modus vivendi* with the government.**

# Sino human smugglers fall at Naia

By TJ Burgonio

**AIRPORT** policewoman SPO1 Karren Pagurangan (left) tries to handcuff a protesting Tak Yee Nelly Cheuk, 35, a suspected human smuggler, at the Ninoy Aquino International Airport yesterday.

AIRPORT immigration authorities yesterday arrested two alleged members of a human smuggling ring, suspected of transporting illegal Chinese immigrants to two South Pacific islands via Manila.

Tak Yee Nelly Cheuk, 35, and Douglas F.S. Yee, 58, were collared by immigration officers at the transit area of the Ninoy Aquino International Airport shortly after they arrived from different destinations.

Cheuk tried to resist arrest and became unruly, prompting officers to handcuff her.

Immigration Commissioner Rufus Rodriguez ordered their arrest after he learned of their presence at the Naia.

The pair have been tagged as couriers of suspected illegal Chinese immigrants to Nauru and Kiribati, where they obtain new passports and assume new nationalities, thereby making themselves eligible to enter other countries without having to present visas.

At the time of their arrest, Cheuk, a British passport-holder, and Yee, a Canadian passport-holder, were seen with a group of Chinese believed to be illegals, according to immigration officer Rudy David and Senior Insp. Reynald Bustillo.

Authorities seized from the two cash in different currencies, a supposed "list of clients," visa and passport application forms filled out by persons, photocopies of several passports, plane tickets and immigration stamps.

Cheuk and Yee flatly denied they were members of an international human smuggling syndicate, despite strong evidence on their illegal activities.

"I work for a bank in Nauru, that's why I travel a lot," Cheuk said.

According to Yee, he accompanied Chinese nationals to Nauru or Kiribati to catch fish.

David and Bustillo took the pair to the Bureau of Immigration main office in Manila for further investigation.

Cheuk and Yee are facing summary deportation, inclusion in the blacklist and the possibility of being banned as transit passengers at the Naia, Simeon Vallada, airport immigration supervisor, said.

According to immigration intelligence officers, the two were often seen arriving in Manila and departing for Nauru or Kiribati with a group of Chinese. After a few days, they would return to Manila with the Chinese holding either Kiribati or Nauru passports.

With their new passports, the migrants can enter the United States, Canada and Australia without any visa, a privilege they do not enjoy with their original Chinese passports.

# 14 cops sacked for seaman's slay

By Nelson Flores

THE NATIONAL Police Commission has suspended 14 Quezon City policemen for their alleged involvement in the murder of a seaman last October.

Suspended were Supt. Isaac Farol, Central Police District Office Station 3 commander; Insp. Florito Rayco, SPO4 Edgardo Palafox, PO3 Amtajil Sajipa, PO2 Reynaldo Angles, PO1 Yacub Zunco, PO1 Rolland Ben-Abo, PO2 Jerry Villamor, PO1 Pablo Basmayor, PO1 Jeremias Alligayu, PO1, Norman Tan, PO1 Abdurajik Jaalain, PO1 Ariel Cantorna and PO1 Franklin Diego.

They were suspended for 90 days pursuant to Section 13 of Napolcom Memorandum Circular 98-014.

Leo Magahum, Napolcom vice-chairperson and executive officer, said he suspended the 14 officers after Jocelyn, wife of slain seaman Jeremias Pineda, filed unlawful arrest and grave misconduct charges arising from the murder.

Magahum said his office found probable cause to administratively charge the suspects.

Records showed that Jeremias was repeatedly shot for allegedly trying to resist arrest inside a billiard hall near his house in Baesa, Quezon City on Oct. 3.

He died while being taken to the Quezon City Hospital.

Witnesses told Napolcom investigators that Alligayu, Tan, Basmayor, Zunco, Sajipa, Ben-Abo and Jaalain accosted Jeremias just as he was about to leave the billiard hall.

Witnesses said Alligayu tried to handcuff the victim even when the lawman failed to present an arrest warrant.

When Jeremias tried to resist arrest, he was allegedly beaten up by the police. He was then shot on the right thigh and left hand, and carried to a waiting tricycle which would take him to the hospital, Napolocom officials said.

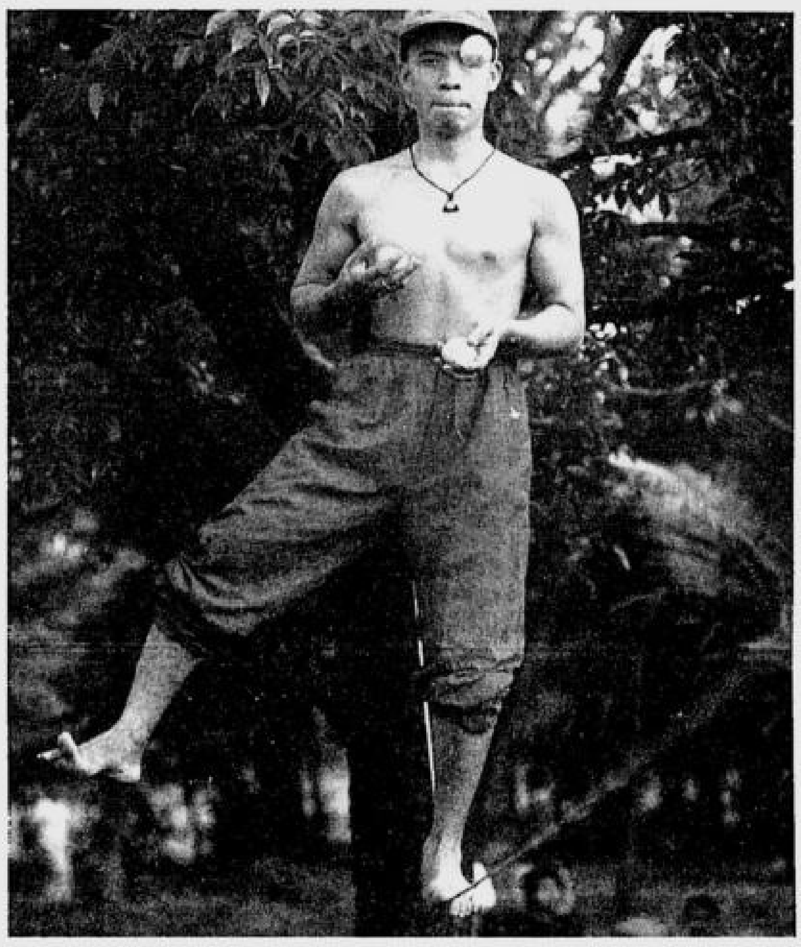
While all this was happening, Zunco pointed his gun at onlookers and ordered them to lie face down on the floor, witnesses said.

Witnesses added that Rayco, Palafox, Angeles, Villamor, Cantorna and Diego just looked on as Zunco was waving his gun.

Autopsy reportedly showed that Jeremias was beaten on different parts of the body, aside from being fatally shot.

Lawyer Edmundo Fernandez, Napolcom chief investigator, said the whole incident was marked with irregularities.

He questioned the failure of the lawmen to properly present an arrest warrant and their use of excessive force in arresting Jeremias.



**SIDESHOW**

Rainier Atendido shows off his prowess in juggling and balancing as he walks on the wire to the delight of strollers at Quezon City Memorial Circle.

EDWIN BACASMAS

# Search on for missing P1M

OFFICIALS of Pasay City are looking for P1 million in missing funds after a cashier from the City Treasurer's Office said over the weekend that City Treasurer Concepcion Daplas ordered her to withdraw the money from the city funds to give as gifts to city councilors.

Last Dec. 11, Lourdes Rafols, Cashier 4 at the City Treasurer's Office, submitted an affidavit to the Office of the Ombudsman saying that Daplas ordered her to withdraw P1 million from the office's vault last Dec. 22 to be given to the city councilors.

"Let's give these noisy councilors a Christmas gift," Daplas reportedly told Rafols.

On Jan. 8, Daplas confronted Rafols and asked her where the money was. Rafols explained that Daplas ordered her to withdraw the money last December.

But Daplas claimed she could not remember the incident and ordered Rafols and two other employees to pay the amount.

Rafols has also asked the National Bureau of Investigation and the Office of the Ombudsman to investigate the loss of the money. She is also set to file charges of graft and corruption as well as qualified theft against Daplas.

Rafols added that Daplas and other employees were harassing her. She said her office drawers were ransacked.

In a statement sent to media, Pasay City Mayor Wenceslao "Peewee" Trinidad said he ordered yesterday the Commission on Audit to conduct an in-depth investigation on the missing funds.

But the press release said Daplas questioned Rafols about unpaid salaries and yearly incentives of city workers that prompted the discovery of the missing P1 million from the city's funds.

Daplas said that Rafols had not reported for work since the anomaly was unearthed, according to the statement. Rafols explained to media that she was absent because she was busy preparing the documents she filed before the Ombudsman.

# Forbes folk defend 2 women banned from impeachment hearing

RESIDENTS of Forbes Park, a posh residential area in Makati City, have defended and extended their support to fellow villagers Rosanna Fores and Bettina Aboitiz, who were banned by the Senate tribunal from attending the impeachment proceedings.

In a letter to Chief Justice Hilario Davide and members of the Senate dated Jan. 12, Jose Concepcion Jr., barangay Forbes Park chair, lamented the failure of the tribunal to give due process to Fores and Aboitiz before deciding to ban them from attending future sessions of the impeachment hearings.

Concepcion said the Senate action against the two women who, aside from being residents are also barangay officials, made it very difficult for Forbes Park residents to appreciate their work toward "the program of having a high regard for the members of both Houses of Congress."

He said members of Congress should undertake corrective measures to restore public confidence on them.

Concepcion said Forbes Park residents who witnessed the incident on Jan. 8 were aghast that their neighbors were publicly humiliated and even detained for more than an hour at the office of the Senate Secretary.

He said later events showed that the decision to ban the two women from the august halls of the Senate was without basis. ***Nelson Flores***

# Changes in Autism Consciousness Week

IN OBSERVANCE of Autism Consciousness Week on Jan. 14 to 20, the Autism Society of the Philippines has lined up a series of events along the theme, "Pilipinong May Autismo: Ako Ay Ikaw Rin."

An exhibit of art works by persons with autism is ongoing until Jan. 21 at the Greenhills Shopping Center, sponsored by the National Council for the Welfare of Disabled Persons and the ASP.

There will be no walkathon as earlier reported.

But a roundtable discussion on the prevention of mistreatment/abuse/violence against persons with autism in the home, in school and in the workplace will be held on Jan. 17, at 9 a.m. at the Quezon City Hall.

For details, call ASP office at 926-6941 and 434-9249 or e-mail autismphils@pacific.net.ph.

# Worker stabbed dead over GRO's complaint

CONSTRUCTION worker Dondon L. Tadena, 22, was happily drinking his beer inside a Quezon City videoke bar when another customer stabbed him to death shortly after midnight on Sunday.

The unidentified suspect was said to have gotten angry after a guest relation officer (GRO) told Tadena the suspect was molesting her.

Tadena, of block 35, Lot 9 Pintakasi St. Lagro Subdivision, Quezon City was drinking with his friend Aaron T. Sioson at the Ling-Lingay Videoke and Food House on Bristol St. at Lagro Subdivision when the incident happened, said investigator SP01 Rodrigo Barrameda.

He said Tadena's assailant, who was with three other men, was drunk and teased a GRO named Rebecca.

Later, the suspect allegedly began touching Rebecca's private parts as she passed by their table table.

Irritated, the GRO went to Tadena's table and whispered to him the suspect's behavior, Barrameda said. This infuriated the suspect, who immediately went out of the bar but returned minutes later with a fan knife, Barrameda said.

He said the suspect then went to Tadena's table, took a bottle of beer, then tried to hit Tadena on the head with it, but missed.

Together with his two companions, the suspect ganged up on Tadena at about 12:30 a.m. Sunday, Barrameda added.

As his two companions subdued Sioson, the suspect repeatedly stabbed Tadena, who suffered a stab wound in the back, chest, and left arm, Barrameda said.

Barrameda said the suspects escaped after the stabbing. Tadena was rushed to the Lorenzo Hospital, but was declared dead on arrival. ***Philip Tubeza***

## THE DAILY GOSPEL

**Tuesday, January 16, 2001**
**2nd Week in Ordinary Time**

| | |
|---|---|
| **1st Reading:** | **Heb 6:10-20** |
| **Gospel:** | **Mk 2:23-28** |

One sabbath he was walking through grainfields. As his disciples walked along with him, they began to pick the heads of grain and crush them in their hands. Then the Pharisees said to Jesus, "Look! they are doing what is forbidden on the sabbath!"

And he said to them, "Have you never read what David did in his time of need, when he and his men were very hungry? He went into the house of God when Abiathar was High Priest and ate the bread of offering, which only the priests are allowed to eat, and he also gave some to the men who were with him." Then Jesus said to them, "The sabbath was made for man, not man for the sabbath. So the Son of Man is master even of the sabbath."

**Commentary:**

*If Jesus were to say what he had said in today's reading in a more unceremonious way, he would probably have said "Use your common sense." Like people who can no longer multiply 7 x 7 because their pocket calculator has run out of batteries, the pharisees couldn't use their common sense because they have allowed the law to dictate every aspect of their lives. Even religion can easily turn into a whole set of obligations to be followed unintelligently. Sometimes we come to a point when we probably do not even know anymore what we are doing it all for. But we keep doing it out of fear. And God in heaven probably wants to say: "You're trying too hard, my child."*

***Claretian Publications Inc., 8 Mayumi St., U.P. Village, Diliman, Quezon City, U.P. P.O. Box 4, Diliman, 1101 Quezon City; Tel.: 921-3984; Fax: 921-7429; E-mail: claret@cnl.net; Website: http://www.cnl.net/claret***

## SUPREME COURT DOCTRINES

**POLITICAL LAW (CONSTITUTIONAL LAW: BILL OF RIGHTS)/ REMEDIAL LAW (CRIMINAL PROCEDURE)—Presumption of innocence of the accused**—The Constitution decrees that, "In all criminal prosecutions, the accused shall be presumed innocent until the contrary is proved xxx: To justify the conviction of the accused, the prosecution must adduce that quantum of evidence sufficient to overcome the constitutional presumption of innocence. The prosecution must stand or fall on its evidence and cannot draw strength from the weakness of the evidence for the accused. Absent the required degree of proof of an accused's guilt, he is entitled to an acquittal. In this case, the seized marijuana plants linking appellant to the crime charged are miserably tainted with constitutional infirmities, which render these inadmissible "for any purpose in any proceeding." Nor can the confession obtained during the uncounselled investigation be used against appellant, it being inadmissible in evidence against him. Without these proffered but prescribed materials, we find that the prosecution's remaining evidence did not even approximate the quantum of evidence necessary to warrant appellant's conviction. Hence, the presumption of innocence in his favor stands. [Citations omitted.] [*En Banc*, Justice Quisumbing, People v. Valdez, G.R. No. 129296, September 25, 2000]

**DIGEST BY R.B. VERA**

# Screenwriters' Guild revitalized

**VIEWFINDER**

*Nestor U. Torre*

CONGRATULATIONS to the new officers of the Screenwriters' Guild of the Philippines—**Ricky Lee**, president; **Pete Lacaba**, chairman; **Roy Iglesias**, executive vice president; **Leleng Ubaldo**, vice-president, internal; **Serge Custodio**, vice-president, external; **Buddy Palad**, treasurer; **Butch Macaro**, secretary, and **Enrico Villa** and **Bonnie Paredes**, PRO.

Lee, Lacaba and Iglesias are three of our best and most responsible screenwriters, so we trust that their stint with the SGP will result in a number of improvements in the lot of TV-film script-writers in this country.

Screenwriters are among the most important movie artists, and yet they often end up holding the short end of the stick. In part, this has been due to the fact that they are loners who haven't developed the ability to unite and speak up with collective articulateness and strength. Let's hope that the new SGP will be more cohesive and action-oriented.

Other members of the SGP's board of directors: **Senen Dimaguila Jr.**, **Pablo S. Gomez**, **Mel del Rosario**, **Shaira Salvador**, **William Pascual**, **Marion Angeles** and **Ollie Cronico** representing the associate members.

This year, the SGP will conduct a membership drive for both veteran and new screenwriters to join the guild. A General Assembly will be held soon.

## Greenbelt theaters reopen

AFTER more than a year of renovation and technical improvements, the Greenbelt Cinemas at Ayala Center reopened on Jan. 11. All three cinemas are now equipped with state-of-the-art digital sound. And the fourth theater has been converted into a venue for stage presentations.

One of the films that opened at Greenbelt's moviehouses on Jan. 11 was "Vertical Limit," a literal cliff-hanger (it's about climbers rescued off a mountain) starring

SCREENWRITERS'/A18

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| 7 | DOLBY SURROUND | VERTICAL LIMIT |
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| 2 | DOLBY SURROUND | KANGKONG |
| 3 | DTS | MEET THE PARENTS |
| 4 | DOLBY SURROUND | PREDATOR FROM THE DEEP |
| 5 | DOLBY DIGITAL | THE 6TH DAY |
| 6 | SYNTHESIZED SURROUND | LEGEND OF BAGGER VANCE |
| 7 | DOLBY SURROUND | VERTICAL LIMIT |
| 8 | DOLBY SURROUND | SPIRIT WARRIORS |
| 9 | DOLBY SURROUND | BALAHIBONG PUSA |
| 10 | SYNTHESIZED SURROUND | BALAHIBONG PUSA |

**SM CITY FAIRVIEW** 9380740

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| 1 | DOLBY SURROUND | SPIRIT WARRIORS |
| 2 | DOLBY SURROUND | LEGEND OF BAGGER VANCE |
| 3 | DOLBY SURROUND | THE 6TH DAY |
| 4 | DOLBY DIGITAL | VERTICAL LIMIT |
| 5 | DOLBY SURROUND | TANGING YAMAN |
| 6 | DOLBY SURROUND | BALAHIBONG PUSA |
| 7 | DOLBY DIGITAL | THE 6TH DAY |
| 8 | DOLBY SURROUND | MEET THE PARENTS |
| 9 | DOLBY SURROUND | PREDATOR FROM THE DEEP |
| 10 | DOLBY SURROUND | BALAHIBONG PUSA |
| 11 | DOLBY SURROUND | GATAS |
| 12 | DOLBY SURROUND | KANGKONG |

**SM CITY MANILA** 5239240

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| 1 | DOLBY DIGITAL | MEET THE PARENTS |
| 2 | DOLBY DIGITAL | EMPERORS NEW GROOVE |
| 3 | DOLBY SURROUND | SPIRIT WARRIORS |
| 4 | DOLBY SURROUND | THE 6TH DAY |
| 5 | DOLBY DIGITAL | LEGEND OF BAGGER VANCE |
| 6 | DOLBY DIGITAL EX | THE 6TH DAY |
| 7 | DOLBY SURROUND | KANGKONG |
| 8 | DOLBY SURROUND | VERTICAL LIMIT |
| 9 | DOLBY SURROUND | TANGING YAMAN |
| 10 | DOLBY SURROUND | PREDATOR FROM THE DEEP |
| 11 | DOLBY SURROUND | BALAHIBONG PUSA |
| 12 | DOLBY SURROUND | BALAHIBONG PUSA |

**GUADALUPE COMM'L CTR** 8820950

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|---|---|---|
| 1 | ULTRA SURROUND | KANGKONG |
| 2 | SYNTHESIZED SURROUND | THE 6TH DAY |
| 3 | SYNTHESIZED SURROUND | BALAHIBONG PUSA |

**SM MEGAMALL** 6331901 · 6329401

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|---|---|---|
| 1 | DOLBY DIGITAL | EMPERORS NEW GROOVE |
| 2 | DOLBY SURROUND | SPIRIT WARRIORS |
| 3 | DOLBY DIGITAL | THE 6TH DAY |
| 4 | DTS | MEET THE PARENTS |
| 5 | DOLBY SURROUND | LEGEND OF BAGGER VANCE |
| 6 | DOLBY SURROUND | PREDATOR FROM THE DEEP |
| 7 | SYNTHESIZED SURROUND | BALAHIBONG PUSA |
| 8 | SYNTHESIZED SURROUND | TANGING YAMAN |
| 9 | DOLBY SURROUND | KANGKONG |
| 10 | DOLBY SURROUND | VERTICAL LIMIT |
| 11 | SYNTHESIZED SURROUND | BALAHIBONG PUSA |
| 12 | SYNTHESIZED SURROUND | GATAS |

**SM CITY NORTH EDSA** 9295452

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|---|---|---|
| 1 | DOLBY SURROUND | KANGKONG |
| 2 | DOLBY SURROUND | VERTICAL LIMIT |
| 3 | SYNTHESIZED SURROUND | BALAHIBONG PUSA |
| 4 | DOLBY SURROUND | BALAHIBONG PUSA |
| 5 | DOLBY SURROUND | MEET THE PARENTS |
| 6 | DOLBY SURROUND | LEGEND OF BAGGER |
| 7 | DTS | THE 6TH DAY |
| 8 | DOLBY DIGITAL | PREDATOR FROM THE DEEP |
| 9 | SYNTHESIZED SURROUND | EMPERORS NEW GROOVE |
| 10 | DOLBY SURROUND | GATAS |
| 11 | SYNTHESIZED SURROUND | SPIRIT WARRIORS |
| 12 | DOLBY SURROUND | TANGING YAMAN |

**SM SOUTHMALL** 8066666 · 8066762

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|---|---|---|
| 1 | ULTRA SURROUND | MEET THE PARENTS |
| 2 | ULTRA SURROUND | LEGEND OF BAGGER VANCE |
| 3 | DOLBY DIGITAL EX | TANGING YAMAN |
| 4 | ULTRA SURROUND | BALAHIBONG PUSA |
| 5 | ULTRA SURROUND | BALAHIBONG PUSA |
| 6 | ULTRA SURROUND | SPIRIT WARRIORS |
| 7 | ULTRA SURROUND | KANGKONG |
| 8 | DOLBY DIGITAL EX | THE 6TH DAY |
| 9 | ULTRA SURROUND | VERTICAL LIMIT |
| 10 | ULTRA SURROUND | PREDATOR FROM THE DEEP |

**TUTUBAN CENTER** 2514302

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| 1 | ULTRA SURROUND | THE 6TH DAY |
| 2 | SYNTHESIZED SURROUND | TANGING YAMAN |
| 3 | SYNTHESIZED SURROUND | VERTICAL LIMIT |
| 4 | SYNTHESIZED SURROUND | BALAHIBONG PUSA |

**SM CEBU** 2313876

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| 1 | DOLBY SURROUND | SUGO NG TONDO |
| 2 | ULTRA SURROUND | KANGKONG |
| 3 | ULTRA SURROUND | THE 6TH DAY |
| 4 | ULTRA SURROUND | GATAS |
| 5 | ULTRA SURROUND | LOST SOULS |
| 6 | ULTRA SURROUND | EX-CON |
| 7 | DOLBY SURROUND | BOYS & GIRLS |

**[illegible]**

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| 1 | ULTRA SURROUND | DEATH ROW |
| 2 | ULTRA SURROUND | EX- CON |
| 3 | ULTRA SURROUND | THE 6TH DAY |
| 4 | ULTRA SURROUND | GATAS |
| 5 | ULTRA SURROUND | BLAIR WITCH 2 |
| 6 | ULTRA SURROUND | TANGING YAMAN |
| 7 | ULTRA SURROUND | SUGO NG TONDO |
| 8 | ULTRA SURROUND | LOST SOULS |

**SM PAMPANGA** 7128015

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| 1 | DOLBY DIGITAL EX | BALAHIBONG PUSA |
| 2 | DOLBY DIGITAL EX | THE 6TH DAY |
| 3 | DOLBY SURROUND | MEET THE PARENTS |
| 4 | SYNTHESIZED SURROUND | KANGKONG |
| 5 | SYNTHESIZED SURROUND | EX-CON |
| 6 | DOLBY SURROUND | TANGING YAMAN |

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| 2 LETS & GO TAMIYA | 2 BALAHIBONG PUSA in DOLBY DIGITAL SOUND | 6 MEET THE PARENTS in DTS/SDDS DIGITAL SOUND | 2 VERTICAL LIMIT (Adv. Screening) in SONY DYNAMIC DIGITAL SOUND | 2 LEGEND OF BAGGER VANCE in DSD DOLBY DIGITAL SOUND |
| 3 BALAHIBONG PUSA | 3 VERTICAL LIMIT THX (Adv. Screening) in DSD/SDDS/DTS DIGITAL SOUND | 7 LEGEND OF BAGGER VANCE in DTS DIGITAL SOUND | 3 BALAHIBONG PUSA in DOLBY STEREO DIGITAL SOUND | 3 MEET THE PARENTS in DTS DIGITAL SOUND |
| 4 THE 6TH DAY | 4 THE PHANTOM OF THE OPERA (Phil. Premiere) Art Film in DTS DIGITAL SOUND | | 4 SOON TO OPEN Onstage | 4 THE 6TH DAY in DTS DIGITAL SOUND |
| | | | | 5 BALAHIBONG PUSA in DTS DIGITAL SOUND |

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A KANGKONG

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4 LEGEND OF BAGGER VANCE
5 TANGING YAMAN
6 KANGKONG
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8 (SDDS) VERTICAL LIMIT
9 (DOLBY) THE 6TH DAY

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2 BALAHIBONG PUSA
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4 (SDDS) VERTICAL LIMIT
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6 (DOLBY) THE 6TH DAY
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8 PING LACSON STORY
9 GATAS

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7 (DOLBY) VERTICAL LIMIT
8 KANGKONG

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2 TANGING YAMAN
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4 BALAHIBONG PUSA
5 KANGKONG

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2 KANGKONG
3 BALAHIBONG PUSA
4 THE 6TH DAY
5 PING LACSON STORY
6 VERTICAL LIMIT

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2 KANGKONG
3 THE 6TH DAY

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3 (DTS) THE 6TH DAY

**Cinema 2000 Waltermart**
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2 (DTS) TANGING YAMAN
3 (DOLBY) THE 6TH DAY
4 KANGKONG

**Lianas Cinema**
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2 VERTICAL LIMIT
3 KANGKONG
4 (DTS) BALAHIBONG PUSA

**Lianas MovieCity**
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2 BALAHIBONG PUSA
3 (DTS) KANGKONG
4 CRACKER JACK
5 GATAS

**Olivarez Tri-Cinema**
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2 KANGKONG
3 TANGING YAMAN

**Olivarez Los Baños**
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2 GATAS
3 TANGING YAMAN

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2 THE 6TH DAY
3 GATAS

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3 TANGING YAMAN

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3 KANGKONG
4 VERTICAL LIMIT

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4 THE 6TH DAY

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❷ TANGING YAMAN
❸ BLAIR WITCH 2
❹ DEATH ROW
❺ MARKOVA: COMFORT GAY
❻ SUGATANG PUSO

DOLBY DIGITAL dts SDDS

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| ALI MALL CINEPLEX-2 | BALAHIBONG PUSA |
| ALI MALL CINEPLEX-3 (DDS) | MEET THE PARENTS |
| ALI MALL CINEPLEX-4 (SDDS) | THE 6TH DAY |
| ALI MALL CINEPLEX-5 (DTS) | PREDATOR FROM THE DEEP |
| ALI MALL CINEPLEX-6 (DOLBY) | BALAHIBONG PUSA |
| ALI MALL CINEPLEX-7 (DOLBY) | KANGKONG |
| FARMERS PLAZA-1 (DOLBY) | THE 6TH DAY |
| FARMERS PLAZA-2 (DOLBY) | BALAHIBONG PUSA |
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| MIRAMAR | KANGKONG |
| ODEON | BALAHIBONG PUSA |
| ODEON-2 | THE 6TH DAY |
| ROBEN | KANGKONG |
| TANDEM-1 | SPIRIT WARRIORS |
| TANDEM-2 | NAGHUHUMIYAW |
| TIMES | WHAT LIES BENEATH / ANACONDA 2000 |
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| ACT-1 | SA IYO ANG SARAP SA IYO ANG LIGAYA |
| ACT-2 | ARAYY |
| ACT-3 | HIRAM NA KATAWAN |
| ACT-4 | BIRADOR |
| CORONET-2 | BALAHIBONG PUSA |
| QUEZON-1 | KANGKONG |
| REMAR | BALAHIBONG PUSA |
| REMAR-2 | KANGKONG |
| **CUBAO** | |
| OCEAN SUPERAMA | MARKOVA: COMFORT GAY |
| OCEAN CINEMA-A | LARO SA BAGA |
| OCEAN CINEMA-B | GUEVARRA |
| **MANDALUYONG CITY** | |
| SHANGRI-LA PLAZA MALL | 635-20-79 / 633-78-51 TO 70 |
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| CINEMA-2 | THE 6TH DAY |
| **CAINTA RIZAL** | |
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| CINEMA-2 | EMPERORS NEW GROOVE |
| CINEMA-3 | DEATH ROW |
| CINEMA-4 (DOLBY DIGITAL) | THE 6TH DAY |
| CINEMA-5 (DTS) | THE 6TH DAY |
| CINEMA-6 | BALAHIBONG PUSA |
| CINEMA-7 | SPIRIT WARRIORS |
| CINEMA-8 | TANGING YAMAN |
| CINEMA-9 (DTS) | MEET THE PARENTS |
| CINEMA-10 (DOLBY DIGITAL) | THE 6TH DAY |
| CINEMA-11 (SDDS) | PREDATOR FROM THE DEEP |
| CINEMA-12 | BALAHIBONG PUSA |
| CINEMA-14 | GATAS |
| CINEMA-15 | TANGING YAMAN |
| **LORES** | |
| CINEMA-2 | TANGING YAMAN |
| CINEMA-3 | THE 6TH DAY |
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# ENTERTAINMENT

LOUIE C. CAMINO, Editor

# Jeturian serves up a slice of life

**JEFFREY Jeturian**'s "Tuhog" was supposed to have been the third entry of Regal Films in last December's Metro Manila Film Festival. But with two Regal movies already among the official entries—**Chito Roño**'s hit "Spirit Warriors" and **Joey Reyes**' "Sugatang Puso"—Regal no longer fielded "Tuhog."

It didn't prove to be a loss for Regal, anyway. The bold and brave theme of "Tuhog" makes the movie stand on its own even on a nonfestival playdate. And whoever believes that bold movies cannot become classics will definitely be proven wrong when "Tuhog" hits the screen.

The film is a brave attempt to dramatize the otherwise taboo issue of incest in a realistic and plain manner. With "Tuhog," Jeturian proves that a bold movie can rise to a sophisticated level with high artistic and entertainment values.

"Tuhog" aims to prove that what is steamy and sizzling on the big screen can affect a thinking audience.

Its two lead actresses, **Ina Raymundo** and **Klaudia Koronel**, display not just their bodies but also their acting prowess. The sexy stars shed all inhibitions to make their innocent characters as authentic as possible.

Ina and Klaudia play virginal barrio lasses who become victims of a sex-starved, psychologically imbalanced grandfather (**Dante Rivero**), who imprisons the women in his family to satisfy his lust.

Jeturian, who this early has already made a name as one of the country's promising young directors following his critically acclaimed "Pila Balde" and "Sana Pag-ibig Pa," worked from a script by **Armando Lao.**

The film also stars **Jaclyn Jose** and **Irma Adlawan** as the helpless mothers whose destinies are controlled by their sick father.

Shot in the picturesque barrio of San Miguel, Bulacan, "Tuhog" is being touted as the first important film of the year. Credit should also go to **Lily Monteverde** for bringing the film to the big screen.

### Reluctant comedian

**DAVID Bunevacz** is making his big screen debut as the main villain in the forthcoming Robin Padilla-Janno Gibbs comedy, "Kung Uukol, Bubukol" from Viva Films.

It took a lot of convincing to make David do the movie. He reportedly even had a fight with his new wife, **Jessica Rodriguez**, who insisted that he take the offer.

The role was originally meant for **Edu Manzano**, who had to turn it down because he'd be busy campaigning for the May elections.

David is a reluctant comedian. While shooting, he had to be coached in his Tagalog lines by Jessica.

But David is not really a stranger to the cameras. He is a TV host of ABS-CBN's "Sports Unlimited," with **Dyan Castillejo**.

But is it true that Jessica—and no longer Boy Abunda—is now managing David's career? The decathlete reportedly harbors a grudge against Abunda, for having interviewed

**SHOWBIZ TIDBITS**

*Leah Salterio*

David's ex- girlfriend **Anjanette Abayari**, now based in LA, just before the David-Jessica wedding.

Anjanette made several revelations in the TV interview that put David in a bad light.

David is said to have accepted the Viva movie offer without severing ties from Abunda.

### Katha Awards

CONGRATULATIONS to Pinikpikan, whose album, "Atas," won the album of the year plum in the recent Katha Awards.

Pinikpikan won four other awards—best world album, best world song and best world performance for "Kalipay," and best instrumental performance for "Singkilan."

### Matias, 69

CONDOLENCE to the family of my friend and fellow entertainment writer **Shirley Matias Pizarro**, whose father, **Reynaldo P. Matias**, passed away on Sunday night.

Matias, 69, is survived by his wife, **Maxima** and his eight children. The wake is at the family residence at No. 28 San Vicente St., Cupang, Balanga, Bataan. Interment will be on Jan. 20, Saturday, at the Eternal Shrine Memorial Park also in Balanga.

**BOLD BABES** Klaudia Koronel and Ina Raymundo play two versions of the same character in "Tuhog."

## Screenwriters'...

**(From page A17)**

**Chris O'Donnell**. On Jan. 18, the new film offering is "Proof of Life," a kidnap-for-ransom thriller topbilling **Meg Ryan** and **Russell Crowe**.

### TV treats

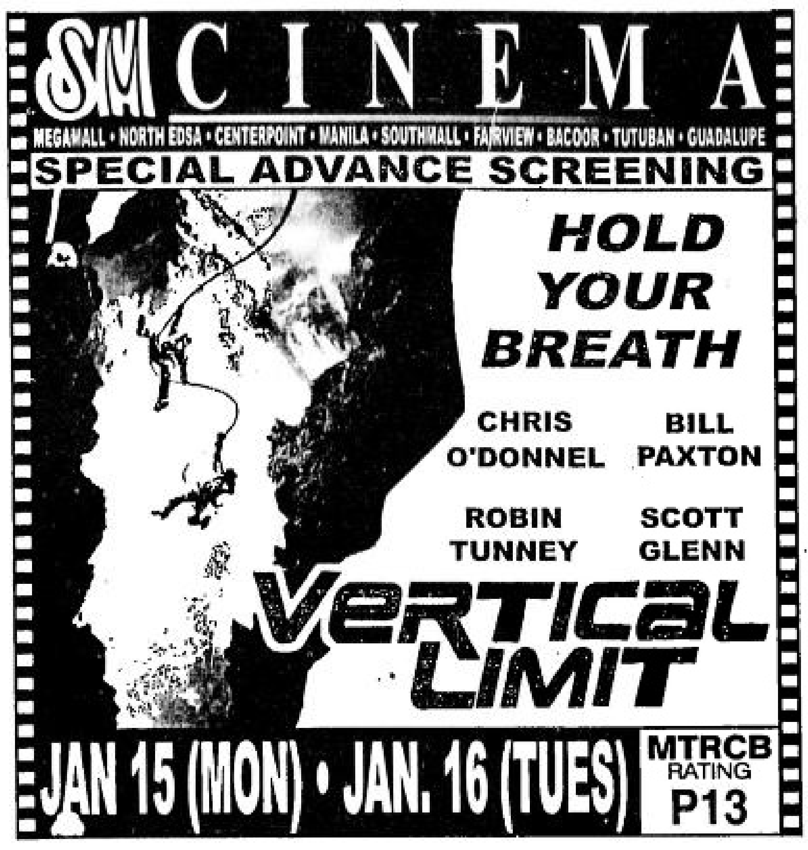
TODAY on Star Movies: at 9:15 a.m., "Doctor Dolittle" stars **Eddie Murphy** and **Oliver Platt**. At 3 p.m., "One from the Heart" topbills **Frederick Forrest** and **Teri Garr**. At 5 p.m., "Secret Life of Girls" features **Linda Hamilton**.

At 8 p.m., today on Viva Cinema 23, "Andrew Ford Medina" stars **Andrew E.** and **Nanette Medved**.

### 'The Phantom of the Opera'

ITALIAN director **Dario Argento**'s "The Phantom of the Opera" opened at Glorietta 4 ArtFilm on Jan. 10. This new adaptation of **Gaston Leroux**'s novel stars **Julian Sands** as the Phantom, and **Asia Argento** as **Christine**.

In the movie, the filmmaker presents his polarized view of the story's "belle epoque" setting—the cultured and bohemian Paris of Degas, Rimbaud and Gounad on the one hand, and a sick city inhabited by greedy people and sordid pedophiles on the other.



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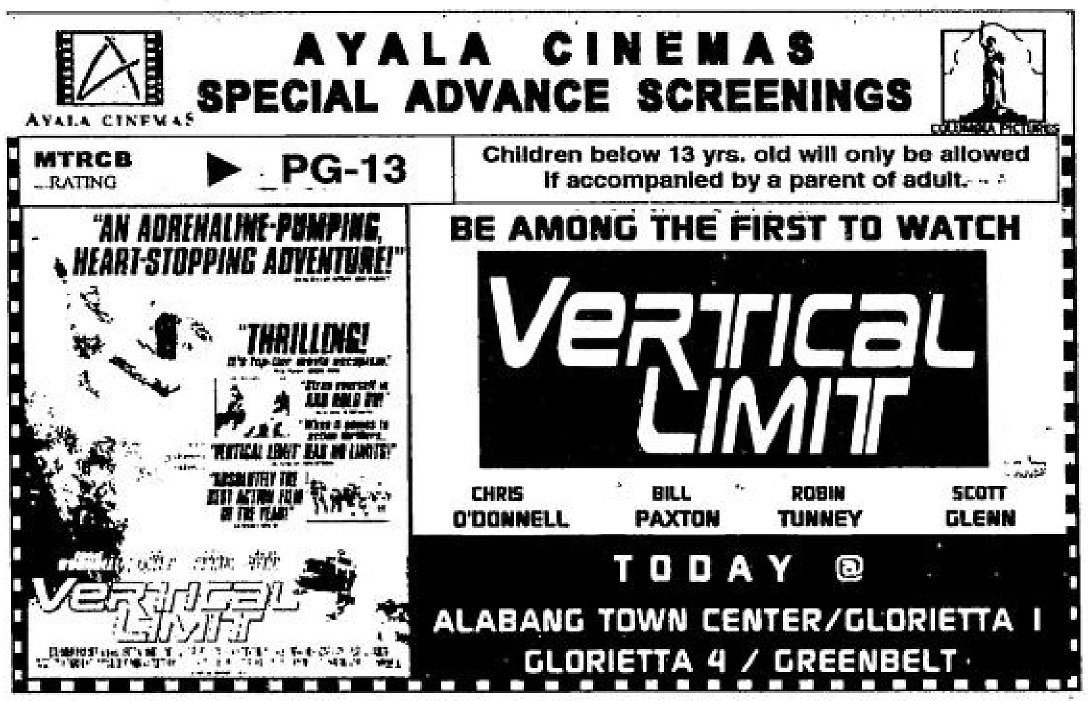
| BALAHIBONG PUSA<br>1:10, 3:20, 5:30, 7:40, 9:50 | THE 6TH DAY<br>11:40, 2:10, 4:40, 5:50, 7:10, 9:40 | MEET THE PARENTS<br>12:00, 2:30, 5:00, 7:30, 10:00 |



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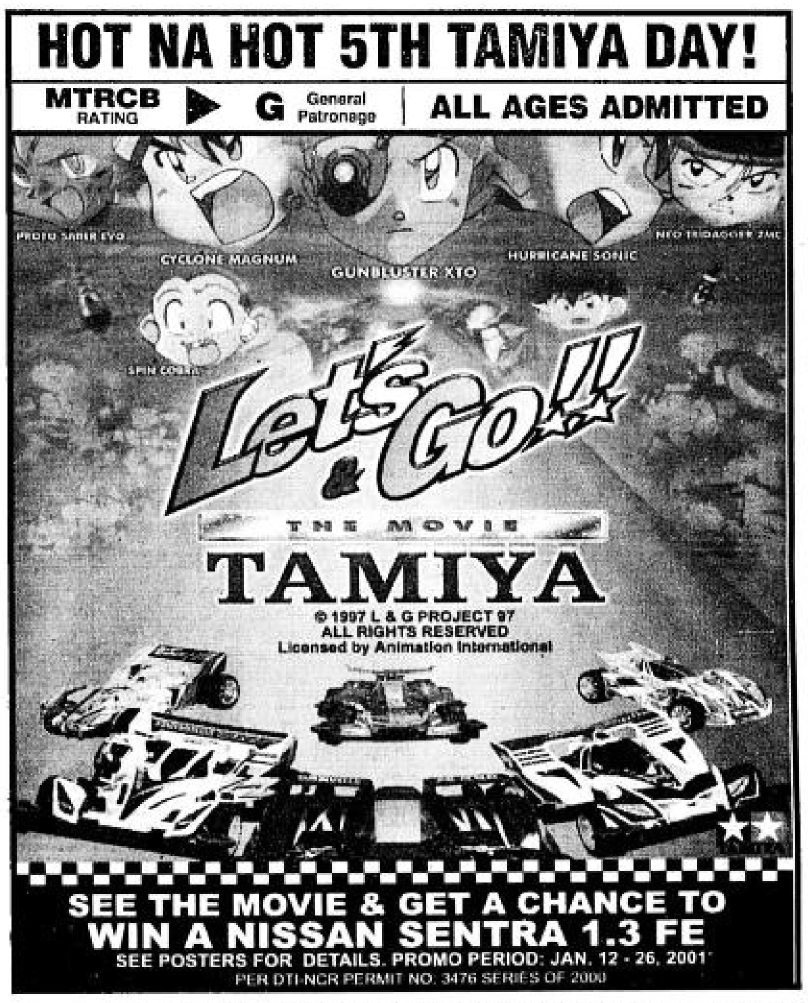

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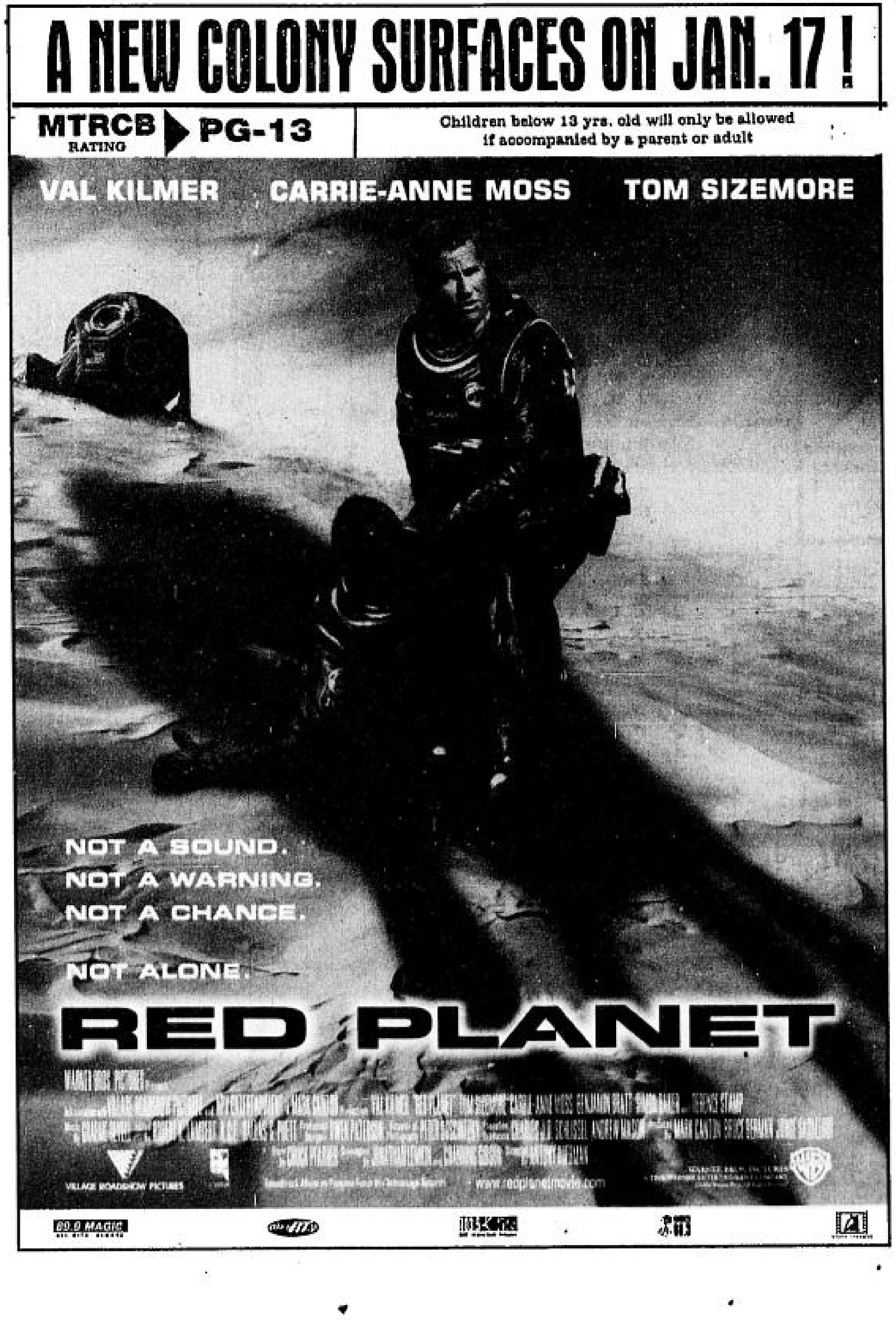

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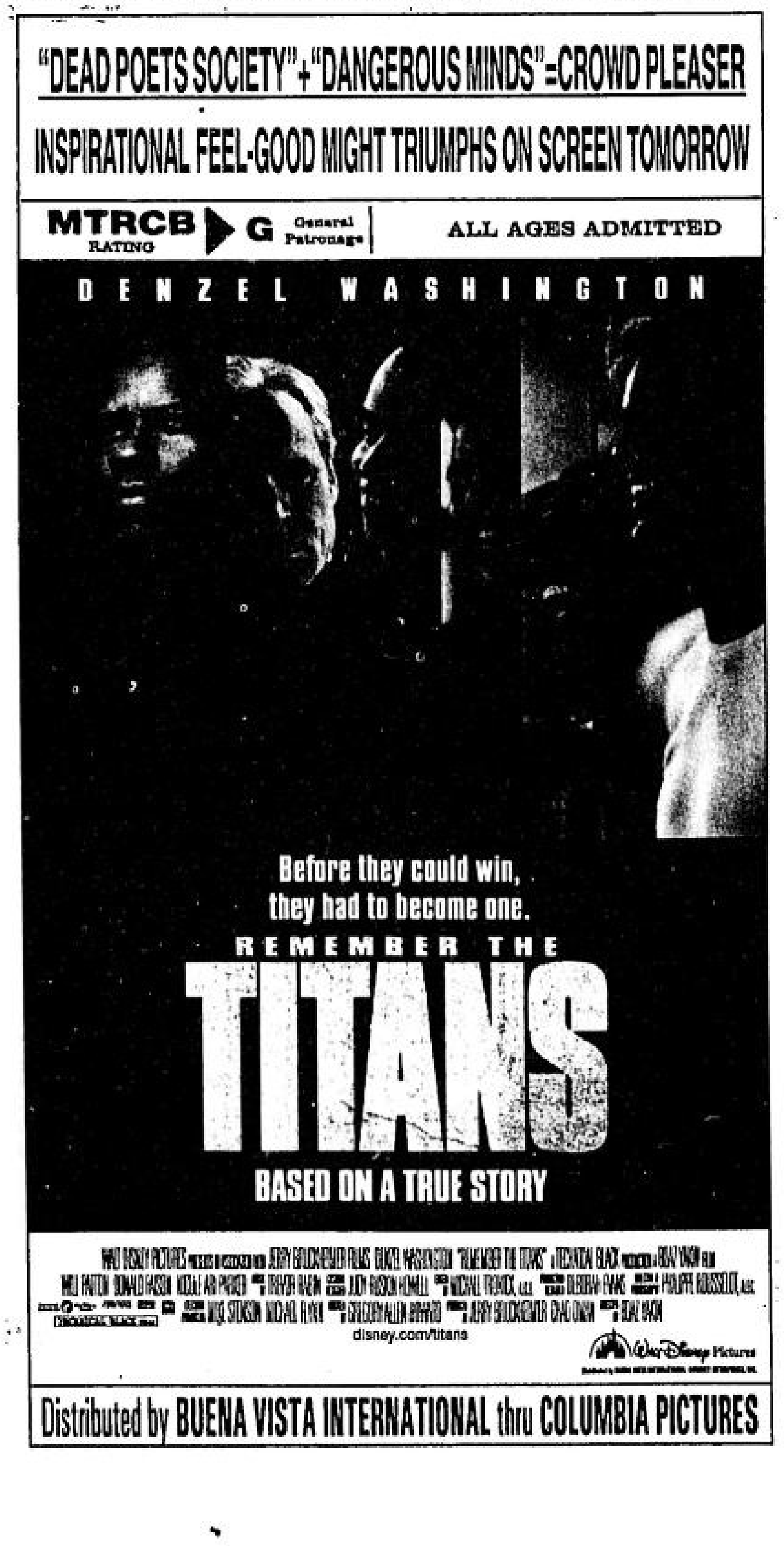

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# BUSINESS

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# 2 foreign groups eye Equitable PCI Bank

By Clarissa S. Batino

TWO FOREIGN groups, believed to be the giant American Insurance Group and Newbridge Capital Inc., have expressed interest in acquiring a controlling stake in Equitable PCI Bank.

Finance Secretary Jose T. Pardo yesterday confirmed that the government was helping the country's third-largest lender find a buyer. Last week, he said an American and an Asian group with expertise in banking and finance contacted the government.

"We have received interest from two foreign investors and we have referred them to the Go family. I heard that momentum is building up in the negotiations," the finance chief said.

Bangko Sentral Governor Rafael Buenaventura also said he heard that foreign and local groups were keen on Equitable even as he said the bank has not officially informed regulators of its plan to sell.

"This is positive news if its true because it would not only stop the rumor mongers but also possibly create a large, regional bank from among the local players," he said.

Newbridge Capital is US-based with diversified interests and has a Singapore-based subsidiary. Three local banks—Bank of the Philippine Islands, the Metrobank Group, and Rizal Commercial Banking Corp. of the Yuchengco family—are likewise reportedly interested in buying Equitable.

BPI said yesterday it would consider investing in Equitable after being approached on the matter.

"We have been asked by the Bangko Sentral and Equitable Bank to look at it, to explore the possibility," Veronica Tapia-Merck, BPI vice president for corporate communications, said in an interview. "Everything is preliminary, nothing concrete."

Equitable shareholders led by the family of former chair George Go and two state-controlled pension funds were reported Monday to have agreed to sell their 67-percent stake in the No. 3 lender.

Still, the transaction has not been discussed by either Equitable's board of directors or by the executive committee of the Social Security System, an investor in the bank, according to SSS vice president Leopoldo Veroy, who sits on both committees.

"I know of no discussion or agreement to sell shares as a block," Veroy said, though he admitted that higher level talks might be in progress.

The board of Equitable, during its last meeting, instructed the management of the bank to explore strategic initiatives that would not only strengthen but also make Equitable far bigger than what it is today.

"Such options could include the entry of a strategic foreign investor or a merger with a Philippine banking institution, in which instance, the consolidated bank unit will be the country's undisputed No.1 financial institution," Ricardo J. Romulo, chair of Equitable, clarified yesterday.

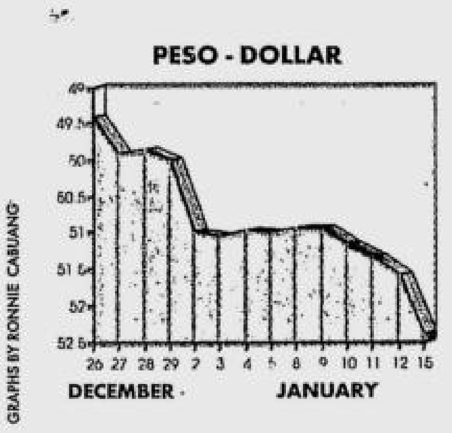
Equitable was named in the ongoing corruption trial of President Estrada, prompting Go's resignation last month. The sale talks came after the bank said more than P3 billion was withdrawn since it was linked to Mr. Estrada, though reports have said as much as 10 times that amount may have been pulled out.

The SSS holds a 25-percent stake in the bank after having increased its holdings through additional purchases from the market. Go and his family own about 30 percent of Equitable. Another state pension fund said to be putting up its stake for sale, the Government Service Insurance System, holds 12 percent.

Equitable will hold a special board meeting today. *Bloomberg, Reuters*

## INDICATORS

### CURRENCIES



**Peso-Dollar Rate**

₱52.40 = $1

As of 5 p.m.,
Jan. 15, 2001

¥118.98 = $1

The US dollar was trading at 118.98 as of 5 p.m., Jan. 15, 2001

**GOLD:$263.70/264.20**

per ounce Hong Kong,
Jan. 15, 2001

### CURRENCIES

Jan. 15, 2001

| Country | Unit | Euro Equivalent | Foreign currency in US$ | Foreign currency in Peso |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| United States | Dollar | 1.050089 | 1.000000 | 51.4620 |
| Japan | Yen | 0.008867 | 0.008444 | 0.4345 |
| United Kingdom | Pound | 1.552242 | 1.478200 | 76.0711 |
| Hong Kong | Dollar | 0.134640 | 0.128218 | 6.5984 |
| Switzerland | Franc | 0.647065 | 0.616200 | 31.7109 |
| Canada | Dollar | 0.699966 | 0.666578 | 34.3034 |
| Singapore | Dollar | 0.605937 | 0.577034 | 29.6953 |
| Australia | Dollar | 0.583967 | 0.556112 | 28.6186 |
| Bahrain | Dinar | 2.785531 | 2.652661 | 136.5112 |
| Kuwait | Dinar | N/A | N/A | N/A |
| Saudi Arabia | Rial | 0.280008 | 0.266652 | 13.7224 |
| Brunei | Dollar | 0.603604 | 0.574812 | 29.5810 |
| Indonesia | Rupiah | 0.000109 | 0.000104 | 0.0054 |
| Thailand | Baht | 0.024252 | 0.023095 | 1.1885 |
| UAE | Dirham | 0.285933 | 0.272294 | 14.0128 |
| Korea | Won | 0.000822 | 0.000783 | 0.0403 |
| Euro | Euro | 1.000000 | 0.952300 | 49.0073 |
| Germany | Mark | 0.511292 | 0.486903 | 25.0570 |
| France | Franc | 0.152450 | 0.145177 | 7.4711 |
| Netherlands | Guilder | 0.453780 | 0.432135 | 22.2385 |
| Austria | Schilling | 0.072672 | 0.069206 | 3.5615 |
| Belgium | Franc | 0.024789 | 0.023607 | 1.2149 |
| Italy | Lire | 0.000517 | 0.000492 | 0.0253 |
| Finland | Markka | 0.168188 | 0.160165 | 8.2424 |
| Portugal | Escudo | 0.004988 | 0.00475 | 0.2444 |
| Spain | Peseta | 0.006010 | 0.005723 | 0.2945 |
| Luxemburg | Franc | 0.024789 | 0.023607 | 1.2149 |
| Ireland | Punt | 1.269739 | 1.209172 | 62.2264 |

# Stocks rise 1.7% to 7-month high

SHARE prices rose 1.7 percent yesterday after the monetary authorities trimmed key short-term interest rates, dealers said.

"Definitely the market's rise is an offshoot of the cut in rates. Any further cut in rates may, however, be cautioned by the peso's weakness," said Astro del Castillo of A and A Securities Inc.

The Philippine Stock Exchange composite index gained 26.28 points to 1,567.93. It was the highest in seven months.

Turnover rose to 458 million shares worth P1.9 billion compared to 264 million shares worth P798 million traded on Friday.

"The market's up now but volume is moderate. It's just a small rise," said Irving Ackerman, president at I. Ackerman Co., who added that blue-chip gains were propping up the market. *AFP*

## BW STOCK SCAM

# SEC to charge more brokers

By Doris C. Dumlao

THE SECURITIES and Exchange Commission is set to implicate 12 stockbrokerage houses and more than 12 individuals in the BW Resources Corp. price manipulation scandal when it refiles its case with the Department of Justice today.

In an interview with reporters yesterday at the Philippine Stock Exchange, SEC Chair Lilia Bautista said the corporate watchdog was ready to file the petition for reconsideration on the BW case.

The SEC was disappointed by the DOJ's recent decision to charge only President Estrada's friend Dante Tan and two of his associates with violating the Revised Securities Act in connection with the stock fraud scandal.

The SEC's earlier report endorsed the filing of charges against Tan, Jimmy Juan, a private investor, former BW Resources president Eduardo "Moonie" Lim Jr. and more than 50 other individuals, eight brokers and two investment houses for stock manipulation.

Bautista said the SEC would file a stronger case against the firms and individuals already included in its previous report. On top of these, she said new charges would be filed against additional firms and individuals whom she refused to name pending the filing of the plea today.

In a separate interview, PSE president Ramon Garcia said he would defer comment on the SEC's motion for reconsideration until he has seen the report.

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# US firms acquire 14% stake in Alliance Global for ₱3.22B

**BY DORIS C. DUMLAO**

TWO US investment firms have acquired a 14-percent stake in Alliance Global Group Inc. for P3.22 billion.

Alliance Global informed stock investors that it received fresh funds from American Growers Corp. and California Orchard Growers' Investments Inc., raising its paid-up capital to P6.45 billion.

Alliance Global shares rose 16.32 percent to P11.75 each following the announcement.

The company said American Growers subscribed to 160 million common shares equivalent to P1.84 billion.

California Orchard bought 120 million shares for P1.38 billion, it said.

Alliance Global said it would use these infusions to build facilities that would allow it to compete more effectively abroad.

"Alliance Global intends to use the new capital infusion to build a modern alcoholic beverage, distilled water and juice production complex in Laguna, one of the most modern of its kind in Asia," the company said in its disclosure.

"This is in line with the strategy to expand into a regionally competitive food and beverage conglomerate," it said.

Alliance Global is the holding company of fast-food retailer George Yang, who holds the local franchise of the McDonald's fast-food chain.

All shares acquired by American Growers and California Orchard would come from Alliance Global's unissued authorized capital stock.

Eagle Equities Inc. president Joseph Roxas said the entry of American Growers and California Orchard would be good for Alliance Global.

"They were able to sell shares at a higher price but with less dilution of shares held by existing shareholders," Roxas said.

The two US investment companies bought the shares at P11.50 each against a par value of only P1 per share.

As of Sept. 30 last year, Alliance Global had an authorized capital stock of P5 billion and a paid-in capital of P1.72 billion.

It had an additional P1.5 billion unissued but already subscribed capital stock from international investment firm Washington Assets Ltd., which bought 105 million new common shares at P11 each.

Alliance Global is planning to list shares on the Singapore Stock Exchange and join the ranks of Philippine stocks listed abroad.

Among the local companies listed both here and abroad are Philippine Long Distance Co., Ionics EMS Inc., Benguet Corp. and Philex Gold Inc.

Alliance Global's subsidiary, Alliance Growers Holdings Inc., recently spent P562.5 million to acquire US-based food manufacturer McKester PikNik International Ltd.

Alliance Global already has an existing tie-up with Piknik's parent company, McKester's USA, for the distribution of McKester's premium product lines in the Philippines and for the local manufacturing of its juices, jams, spreads, preserves, processed fruits and other food stuffs for the domestic and export markets.

Alliance Global, which conducted an initial public offering in early 1998, manufactures products supplied to leading beverage and liquor companies in the country from its plant in Canlubang, Laguna.

Formerly known as Anglo Watsons Inc., Alliance Global was incorporated on Oct. 12, 1993 to engage in container glass manufacturing.

Anglo-Watsons changed its corporate name to Alliance Global on Aug. 3, 1998 following Yang's acquisition of a 67-percent stake through Yorkshire Holdings Inc.

# Gov't starts trading bonds

THE GOVERNMENT yesterday started trading small-denominated treasury bonds on the stock exchange, with investors bidding the bonds lower as the peso slumped to a record low.

The government debts were left untraded.

"There were buyers but there were no sellers," PSE president Ramon T. Garcia said.

The bid for the July 2004 bond closed at P92.70 on the Philippine Stock Exchange, pointing to rising yields of 16.41 percent, compared to an opening of P95.45 with a yield of 15.42 percent. The bond, with a coupon rate of 13.625 percent, traded on Friday at the Bureau of Treasury at P100.63, yielding 13.396 percent.

The government, which is trying to make it easier for more than 75 million Filipinos to buy and sell bonds, may use the proceeds to help finance an expected budget deficit this year.

After the key stock index lost more than 30 percent last year and the benchmark 91-day treasury bill yield rose four percentage points to almost 13 percent due to a depreciating peso, some investors said bonds might be a better investment.

*Doris C. Dumlao, Bloomberg*

# Sun Life planning RP fund

CANADA'S Sun Life Insurance Co. has announced a plan to create a Philippine-registered mutual fund that will invest in securities abroad.

Documents obtained by the INQUIRER showed that Sun Life Asset Management Co. Inc. last month asked the Securities and Exchange Commission to approve its plan to create a mutual fund that would invest in equities in the United States and other international markets.

In a letter, Sun Life Asset Management president Rolando Robles told SEC Chair Lilia Bautista that the Philippine-registered mutual fund would invest abroad through funds managed by Sun Life.

*Elena R. Torrijos*

## Philippine Stock Exchange

(As of Monday, January 15, 2001)

| STOCKS | OPEN | HIGH | LOW | CLOSE | VOLUME |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| **BANKS & FINANCIAL SERVICES** | | | | | |
| **BANKS** | | | | | |
| Bank of the Phil. Islands | 60.00 | 62 | 60 | 62 | 638,600 |
| China Banking Corp. | 730.0 | 730 | 730 | 730 | 10 |
| Chinatrust Comm. Bank | 17.50 | 17.5 | 17.5 | 17.5 | 5,000 |
| Equitable PCI Bank Inc. | 55.00 | 55 | 54 | 55 | 117,800 |
| Metropolitan Bank & Trust | 191.0 | 196 | 191 | 195 | 395,170 |
| Security Bank Corp. | 26.00 | 26 | 26 | 26 | 3,300 |
| Union Bank of the Phil. | 36.00 | 36 | 36 | 36 | 7,200 |
| **FINANCIAL SERVICE** | | | | | |
| Bankard Inc. | 1.68 | 1.68 | 1.68 | 1.68 | 1,000 |
| First Metro Invest. Corp. | 250.0 | 250 | 250 | 250 | 200 |
| Manulife Financial Corp. | 1210 | 1225 | 1210 | 1225 | 3,510 |
| Sun Life Financial Serv. | 1080 | 1110 | 1080 | 1100 | 5,550 |
| **COMMERCIAL & INDUSTRIAL** | | | | | |
| **COMMUNICATION** | | | | | |
| ABS-CBN Broadcasting Corp. | 49.50 | 50 | 49.5 | 50 | 167,200 |
| Digital Telecom Phils. Inc. | .5100 | .51 | .5 | .5 | 1,730,000 |
| Globe Telecom Inc. | 700.0 | 710 | 690 | 700 | 680 |
| Island Info and Tech Inc. | .0460 | .048 | .046 | .048 | 13,600,000 |
| Liberty Telecoms Holdings | .4500 | .45 | .45 | .45 | 100,000 |
| Manila Bulletin Pub. Corp | 3.90 | 3.9 | 3.9 | 3.9 | 12,000 |
| Piltel | .6000 | .64 | .6 | .63 | 650,000 |
| Phil. Long Dis Tel Co. | 900.0 | 915 | 900 | 915 | 1,011,370 |
| Ivantage Corp. | .8700 | .88 | .87 | .88 | 370,000 |
| Philweb.com Inc. | .0350 | .039 | .035 | .039 | 94,400,000 |
| **POWER & ENERGY** | | | | | |
| Manila Electric Co. "A" | 49.00 | 49 | 48.5 | 48.5 | 31,900 |
| Manila Electric Co. "B" | 55.00 | 55 | 54 | 54.5 | 943,900 |
| Petron Corp. | 1.32 | 1.36 | 1.32 | 1.36 | 5,966,000 |
| **TRANSPORTATION SERVICES** | | | | | |
| Int'l Container Term'l SV | .8000 | .81 | .8 | .81 | 780,000 |
| Keppel Phils. Marine Inc. | .5800 | .6 | .58 | .6 | 250,000 |
| **CONSTRUCTION & OTHER RELATED PRODUCTS** | | | | | |
| Engineering Equip. Inc. | .3800 | .4 | .38 | .4 | 290,000 |
| Union Cement Corp. | .6000 | .6 | .6 | .6 | 790,000 |
| **FOOD, BEVERAGES & TOBACCO** | | | | | |
| Cosmos Bottling Corp. | 2.40 | 2.4 | 2.4 | 2.4 | 110,000 |
| Jollibee Foods Corp. | 10.00 | 10.5 | 10 | 10.25 | 1,095,800 |
| La Tondeña Distillers Inc. | 31.50 | 33 | 31.5 | 33 | 86,700 |
| Pancake House Inc. | 1.62 | 1.62 | 1.62 | 1.62 | 2,000 |
| Pure Foods Corp. "A" | 100.0 | 100 | 100 | 100 | 2,000 |
| RFM Corp. | 1.00 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 250,000 |
| San Miguel Corp. "A" | 49.00 | 50 | 49 | 50 | 47,200 |
| San Miguel Corp. "B" | 56.50 | 57.5 | 56.5 | 57.5 | 155,600 |
| **HOLDING FIRMS.** | | | | | |
| Abacus Con Res & Hdg "A" | .4700 | .47 | .47 | .47 | 10,000 |
| Ayala Corp. | 7.70 | 7.8 | 7.7 | 7.8 | 2,681,000 |
| Aboitiz Equity Ventures | 1.36 | 1.38 | 1.36 | 1.38 | 501,000 |
| Alliance Global Group Inc. | 11.25 | 11.75 | 11.25 | 11.75 | 27,051,100 |
| Ajo.Net Holdings Inc. | .7600 | .76 | .75 | .75 | 90,000 |
| ATN Holdings Inc. | 2.28 | 2.28 | 2.28 | 2.28 | 39,000 |
| Bacnotan Cons. Indus. Inc. | 12.00 | 12 | 12 | 12 | 1,000 |
| Benpres Holdings Corp. | 3.45 | 3.5 | 3.45 | 3.45 | 13,877,000 |
| Crown Equities Inc. | .2500 | .25 | .25 | .25 | 200,000 |
| DMCI Holdings Inc. | .3200 | .33 | .32 | .32 | 950,000 |
| Filinvest Dev. Corp. | .8000 | .84 | .79 | .83 | 2,930,000 |
| First Phil. Hldgs. Corp. | 22.00 | 22.25 | 22 | 22.25 | 192,400 |
| Global Equities Inc. | .3500 | .35 | .35 | .35 | 100,000 |
| Guoco Holdings (Phils.) | .2250 | .225 | .22 | .225 | 290,000 |
| Ionics Inc. | 15.50 | 15.75 | 15.5 | 15.75 | 1,493,600 |
| J.G. Summit Holdings Inc. | 2.12 | 2.12 | 2.12 | 2.12 | 463,000 |
| Keppel Phil. Holdings | 1.74 | 1.74 | 1.74 | 1.74 | 26,000 |
| Keppel Phil. Holdings "B" | 1.50 | 1.8 | 1.5 | 1.8 | 644,000 |
| Macroasia Corp. | 2.24 | 2.24 | 2.24 | 2.24 | 20,000 |
| Megaworld Corp. | .7900 | .8 | .79 | .8 | 4,220,000 |
| Metro Pacific Corp. | .6000 | .61 | .6 | .61 | 8,200,000 |
| Solid Group Inc. | .5000 | .54 | .5 | .54 | 670,000 |
| Uniwide Holdings Inc. | .3400 | .36 | .34 | .36 | 8,500,000 |
| **MANUFACTURING, DISTRIBUTION & TRADING** | | | | | |
| Active Alliance Inc. | .6300 | .63 | .63 | .63 | 50,000 |
| Corro-Coat Inc. | 1.38 | 1.4 | 1.38 | 1.4 | 55,000 |
| Euro-Med Lab. Phil. Inc. | 4.80 | 4.8 | 4.8 | 4.8 | 3,000 |
| Matsushita Elec. Phil. Corp. | 4.00 | 4 | 4 | 4 | 4,000 |
| Macondray Plastics Inc. | 6.50 | 6.5 | 6.5 | 6.5 | 3,000 |
| Music Corp. | 2.90 | 2.95 | 2.9 | 2.95 | 55,000 |
| Picop Resources Inc. | .1100 | .11 | .105 | .105 | 500,000 |
| SPI Technologies Inc. | 7.90 | 8 | 7.9 | 8 | 150,000 |
| **HOTEL, RECREATION & OTHER SERVICE** | | | | | |
| Belle Corp. | .6800 | .68 | .68 | .68 | 20,000 |
| Fairmont Holdings Inc. | .6700 | .69 | .67 | .68 | 6,300,000 |
| Leisure & Resorts Corp. | .3900 | .4 | .39 | .4 | 300,000 |
| **BONDS, PREFERRED & WARRANTS** | | | | | |
| ABS-CBN Hldgs. Corp. (PDR) | 50.50 | 51 | 50.5 | 50.5 | 957,500 |
| Ayala Corp. Pref. | 1.14 | 1.14 | 1.14 | 1.14 | 2,000,000 |
| Equitable PCI Bank-War | 3.10 | 3.1 | 3 | 3 | 382,000 |
| Globe Telecom Hldg. (PDR) | 710.0 | 720 | 710 | 720 | 3,800 |
| Jollibee Warrants | 9.80 | 10 | 9.8 | 10 | 402,000 |
| Omico Corp. Warrant | .0028 | .0028 | .0028 | .0028 | 46,000,000 |
| PLDT (10% Pref) Series Q | 10.25 | 10.25 | 10.25 | 10.25 | 300 |
| PLDT (10% Pref) Series U | 10.25 | 10.25 | 10.25 | 10.25 | 2,100 |
| PLDT (10% Pref) Series V | 10.25 | 10.25 | 10.25 | 10.25 | 700 |
| PLDT (10% Pref) Series W | 10.25 | 10.25 | 10.25 | 10.25 | 1,000 |
| PLDT (10% Pref) Series Y | 10.25 | 10.25 | 10.25 | 10.25 | 300 |
| **PROPERTY** | | | | | |
| Ayala Land Inc. | 5.90 | 6.2 | 5.9 | 6.2 | 12,140,000 |
| Araneta Properties Inc. | .3200 | .34 | .31 | .34 | 650,000 |
| Cebu Holdings Inc. | .4500 | .45 | .45 | .45 | 250,000 |
| C & P Homes Inc. | .2100 | .215 | .21 | .21 | 850,000 |
| Cyber Bay Corp. | .4000 | .4 | .39 | .4 | 370,000 |
| Empire East Land Inc. | .3600 | .38 | .35 | .38 | 23,110,000 |
| Filinvest Land Inc. | 1.52 | 1.58 | 1.48 | 1.58 | 13,445,000 |
| Fil-Estate Land Inc. | .3700 | .37 | .37 | .37 | 200,000 |
| Phil. Realty and Holdings | .1600 | .16 | .16 | .16 | 100,000 |
| SM Development Corp. | .9500 | .95 | .95 | .95 | 50,000 |
| SM Prime Holdings Inc. | 6.20 | 6.4 | 6.1 | 6.4 | 24,369,000 |
| Universal Rightfield Prop. | .0875 | .0875 | .0875 | .0875 | 100,000 |
| **MINING** | | | | | |
| Apex Mining Co. Inc. "B" | .0050 | .005 | .005 | .005 | 6,000,000 |
| Lepanto Cons. Mng. Co. "A" | .1900 | .2 | .19 | .2 | 170,000 |
| Manila Mining Corp. "B" | .0060 | .006 | .006 | .006 | 10,000,000 |
| Omico Corp. | .0038 | .0038 | .0038 | .0038 | 60,000,000 |
| Philex Mining Corp. "B" | .2350 | .235 | .235 | .235 | 500,000 |
| **OIL** | | | | | |
| Imperial Res. | .0210 | .021 | .021 | .021 | 3,100,000 |
| Interport Res. | .0055 | .0055 | .005 | .0055 | 17,000,000 |
| Interport Res. "B" | .0050 | .0055 | .005 | .0055 | 9,000,000 |
| Oriental Pet. & Min. "A" | .0044 | .0044 | .0044 | .0044 | 7,000,000 |
| The Philodrill Corp. "A" | .3000 | .3 | .3 | .3 | 50,000 |
| Pacifica | .0150 | .015 | .015 | .015 | 14,500,000 |
| Sinophil Corp. | .0900 | .09 | .09 | .09 | 700,000 |
| Vulcan Ind'l. | .1900 | .19 | .19 | .19 | 500,000 |

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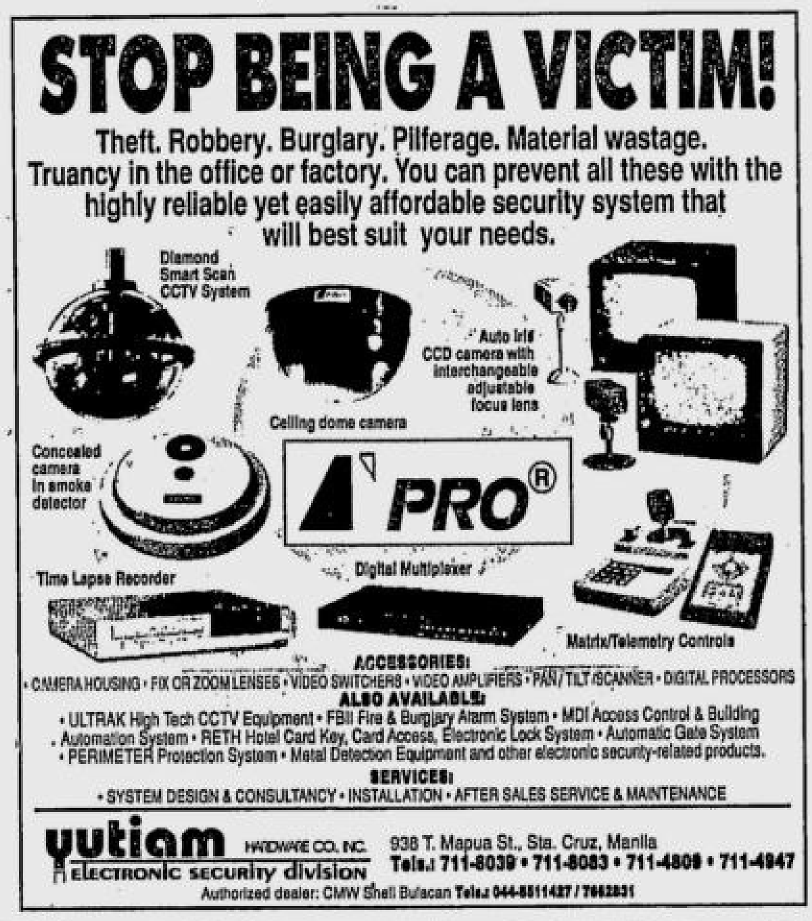
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NET ONE Center recently topped off the 20-storey office IT facility. The PEZA-registered project boasts of state-of-the-art technology with world-class quality standards, and a character of refinement and exclusivity. Qualified locators can avail of numerous incentives including income tax holidays. Shown at the ceremony (from left to right), Macario Rufino, President 19-1 Realty; Ricardo Pascua, President Fort Bonifacio Dev. Corp.; Carlos Rufino Director 19-1 Realty; Leandro Locsin, Jr., Administrator/Design Consultant Leandro V. Locsin Partners Architects; Alfredo Parungao, Director 19-1 Realty.
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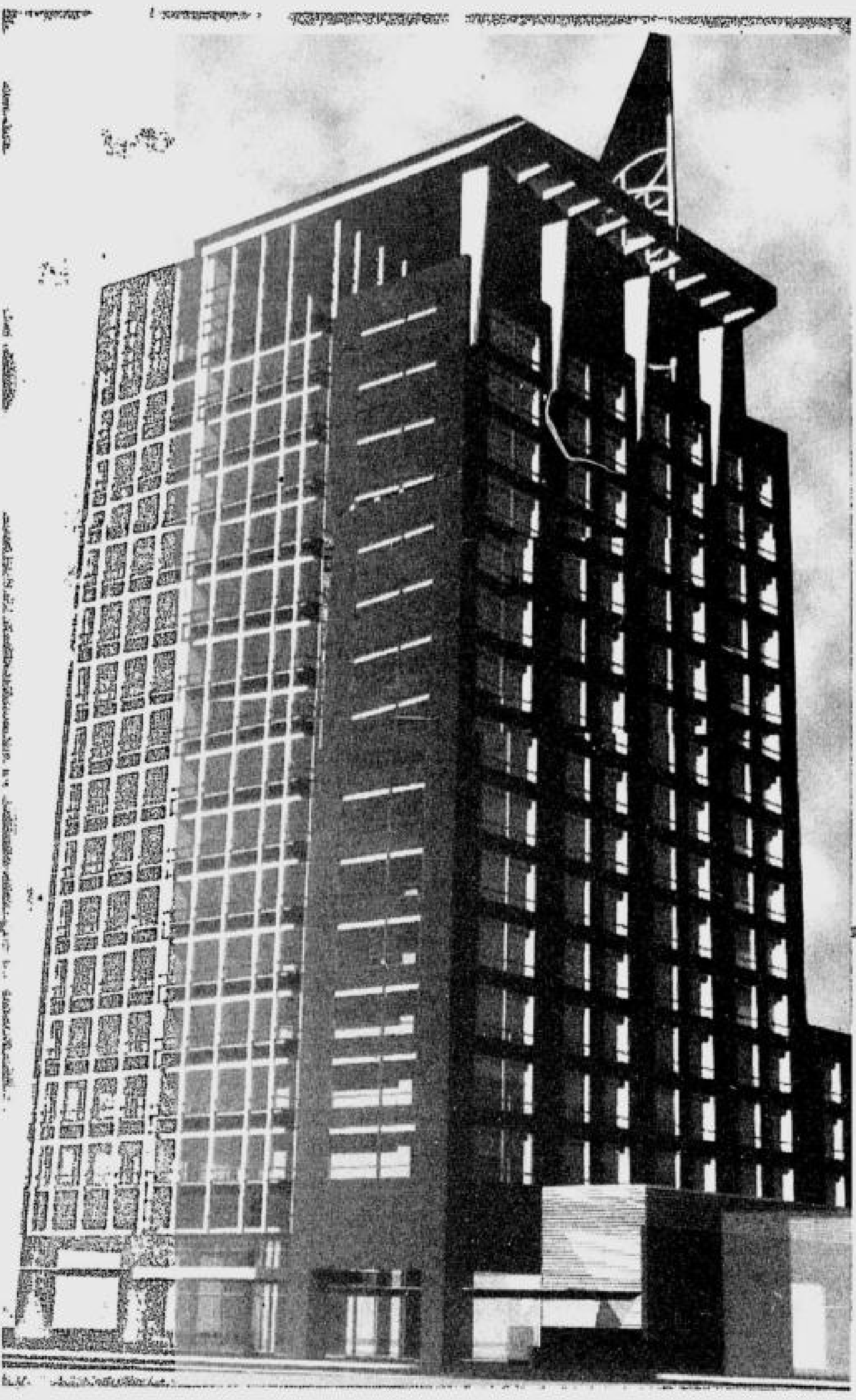
# NET ONE CENTER



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Born from the allied vision of the Rufino Group of Companies and Jacques Dupasquier of the ADD Group of Companies, through their corporate vehicle 19-1 Realty Corporation, Net One Center embodies the vital fusion of experience and foresight, in a project that is audacious in spirit, yet planned with the utmost attention to detail.

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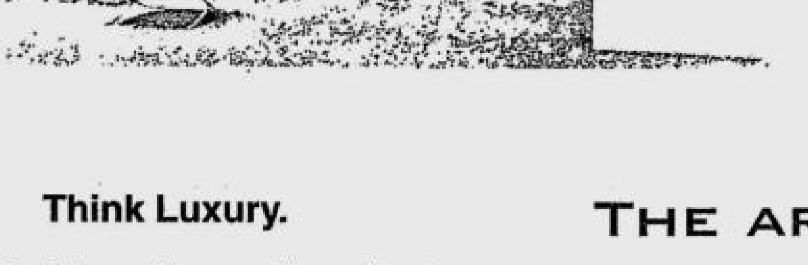

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Net One Center provides fiber-to-the-floor connectivity, cruising the digital highway via Fort Bonifacio Global City's fiber optic loop - 11 kilometers of underground fiber optic cabling network that will support communications requirements from telephones to the fastest interactive video and data technology available.

### Think Synergy.

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### Think Efficiency.

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Net One Center puts a premium on safety, accessibility and professional building management.

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The government and people of the City of Olongapo express their heartfelt sympathies to the family: wife **Dely**; mother **Wilhelmina**; brother **Juancho**; sister-in-law **Yolanda**; and all uncles, aunts, nephews and nieces, of the late

## FERDINAND M. ARISTORENAS

**(17 May 1961 to 12 January 2001)**

U.P. College of Law Class 1987 - **Order of the Purple Feather**
U.P. College of Arts & Sciences 1983
Upsilon Sigma Phi Batch 1980
Ateneo de Manila High School 1979
Ateneo de Manila Grade School 1975

City Administrator of Olongapo City (September 1998 to Present)
and former Chief Operating Officer of the Subic Bay Metropolitan Authority
(February 1993 to September 1998)
Founding Member, **Bagumbayan** - Volunteers for a New Philippines

**One of the original volunteers who had foregone a lucrative legal career for a noble cause in the service of his country. His selfless dedication and leadership were instrumental in the successful transformation of the former United States naval base into the thriving hub of progress that is the Subic Bay Freeport Zone. His idealism, integrity, and honor continue to be a shining example to those whose lives he touched.**

***"Brother, when I meet you in the sun. I shall tell you much!"***

His remains lie in state until 16 January 2001 at the People's Hall, Olongapo City Hall Complex, Rizal Avenue, Olongapo City. He shall be moved to the SBMA Chapel, Dewey Avenue, Subic Bay Freeport on 17 January 2001, and shall be interred on 18 January 2001 at Olongapo Memorial Park after the 8:00 AM Holy Mass.

Services shall be offered as follows:

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| Upsilon Sigma Phi | 16 January | 8:00 PM |
| The People and the City Government of Olongapo | 16 January | 10:00 PM |
| The Volunteers of the Subic Bay Metropolitan Authority | 17 January | 8:00 PM |

---

## Dr. Hernando Hilario Y Alejandrino

*of*

***Bustos, Bulacan***
***(Husband of the late Concepcion Lipana Hilario)***

*Died in the Grace of our Lord on January 13, 2001*
*at 11:00 p.m. in Bustos, Bulacan at the age of 91.*

His bereaved children **Isabelita** and **Joseph Chen**, **Rufina** and **Richard Robinson**, **Lourdes**, **Michael** and **Edelene Hilario**; grandchildren **Cecille** and **David Chen**, **Mark**, **April** and **BJ Hilario**; and other relatives and friends request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of his soul.

His body lies in state at the Arlington Memorial Chapels, Araneta Avenue, Quezon City. On Thursday, January 18, 2001, after the 8:00 a.m. Mass, his body will be brought home to their residence in Bustos, Bulacan.

Interment will be on Saturday, January 20, 2001 at the Bustos Memorial Park, after the 2:00 p.m. Mass at the Sto. Niño Parish Church, Bustos, Bulacan.

---

## Miss Olympia Gonzales Almeda

**of Tanauan, Batangas**

Born: April 3, 1924
Died: January 13, 2001

Beloved sister of **Pilar** (†), **Zosimo** (†), **Leonor** (†), **Salud** (†) and **Jorge** (†); survived by sister-in-law **Dr. Gloria Bautista Almeda**; nephews and nieces.

Her body lies in state at St. Jerome-Sta. Susana Mortuary, Alabang. Cremation will be on Wednesday, January 17 at 7:00 a.m. at Manila Memorial Park, Parañaque.

Her ashes will be brought to the Knights of Columbus Hall, Tanauan, Batangas and will be interred at the Himlayan after the 3:00 p.m. Mass at the St. John the Evangelist Church.

---

## Josefina Mañosa Zialcita

Entrego su alma al Creador el 13 de Enero 2001,
a la edad de 81 años.

Sus hijos - **Malotte, Tessie, Nanette, Bob y Nucay**; Hijos Politicos - **Basty, Joe, Gordo y Carol**; Nietos - **Teye, Kako, Ginna, Itos, Giggio, Carla, Maika, Randi, Nikki y Miguel**; Biznieto - **Oche y Chalu**; y demas familia ruegan una oracion por su alma.

Las misas se celebraran todos los dias a las 6:00 de la tarde en Mary The Queen Parish, Madison Avenue, Greenhills West, San Juan, hasta el 21 de Enero 2001.

El enterimiento seguira a la misa de a las 5:00 de la tarde, el 21 de Enero 2001, en la Cripta de Our Lady of Mount Carmel, Broadway, Quezon City.

---

### MESSAGE OF THANKS

We, the family of the late

## PIN GIAH NG TIUTAN

*who died in the grace of our Lord on 2 January 2001*
*at the age of 76*

wish to convey our deepest gratitude and appreciation to all those who showed love and concern, offered comfort, extended support, and condoled with us in our moment of sorrow by way of their presence, prayers, donations, flowers, notes of sympathy and many other countless ways.

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## RP major source of immigrants to Canada

CANADA remains a favorite immigrant destination for Filipinos. Canadian government statistics show that from 1997 to 1999, 28,205 Filipinos from every immigrant category came to Canada. This makes the Philippines Canada's fourth largest immigrant source country.

"Family sponsorship continues to be the major immigration route for Filipinos," said Canadian immigration lawyer Bayani F. Abesamis. He added that from 1997 to 1999, 11,023 Filipinos came to Canada as a result of sponsorship by their relatives and fiancés. "This makes the Philippines the third largest immigrant source country in this category.''

Skilled workers also comprise a substantial number of Filipino immigrants to Canada. From 1997 to 1999, a total of 9,841 Filipino skilled worker immigrants and their dependents came to Canada. "Filipinos, with their education, skills and innate adaptability, make for ideal immigrants and a lot of our kababayans have been able to make good use of these traits to take full advantage of Canada's aggressive drive to attract skilled manpower to boost its competitiveness in the global economy," noted Abesamis.

From 1997 to 1999, 7,185 Filipinos also obtained immigrant status by going through special programs such as the Live-in Caregiver Program and Provincial Nominees Program.

One of Canada's key attractions to immigrants is the quality of life it offers. For a record seven straight years, the United Nations Development Authority in 2000 voted Canada "the best country in the world to live in." Added to this is the fact that Canada is the only country in the world which enshrines multiculturalism in its fundamental law.

Abesamis is the only Canadian immigration lawyer maintaining a full-time office in the Philippines. He will be available for consultations in his Makati office from Jan. 31 to Feb. 16, 2001. For more information, call 813-3482 or 817-2397.

SONY
Young Achievers Award

**YOUNG ACHIEVERS' AWARD**

As part of Sony's effort to encourage the youth in the pursuit of academic excellence, the president/managing director of Sony Philippines Inc. Kenji Sakai (second from left) awarded Sony portable radio cassette recorders to 68 students who have shown outstanding performance in the field of science. The awarding ceremony was recently held in Sony's head office at The Enterprise Center in Makati City. Shown are (from left) Mark Joseph Licsi, awardee-Pinagbuhatan Elementary School; a DECS-Division Level representative and the awardee's teacher/adviser.

## 'Direct from the USA' catalog, product exhibit starts today

THE FEDERATION of Filipino Chinese Chambers of Commerce and Industry Inc (FFCCCII), in cooperation with the American Chamber of Commerce of the Philippines (AmCham) will host the 3-day United States Commercial Service's Direct from the USA Catalog and Product Exhibit which will start today at the Federation Center Building, Muelle de Binondo, Manila, Philippines. The United States Commercial Services will display catalogs and several products from 180 American firms that are seeking representation in the Philippines. Guests of honor include FFCCCII president Lucio Tan, Manila mayor Lito Atienza and representatives from the United States Embassy and AmCham. For inquiries, call 888-6079 or 888-4088.

## 52 PLDT callers win tickets to 'Miss Saigon'

"HELLO BILLY, Hello Miss Saigon.'' Fifty-two lucky PLDT IDD callers won two premium tickets each to the hottest musical sensation in town – "Miss Saigon.'' PLDT subscribers who made IDD calls from Dec. 25-29, 2000 automatically qualified for the draw conducted on Jan. 4, 2001. Aside from enjoying the reduced IDD rates, they'll experience the world-class excellence of the "Miss Saigon'' production. Truly, a holiday treat for PLDT IDD subscribers. Call 171 now for your free PLDT IDD activation.

## INQUIRER TRiViA

By BONG BARRAMEDA

### Gobbledygook

*Q.* Why 'gobbledygook'?

*A.* The word was coined in 1944 by Texas congressman Maury Maverick, exasperated by his colleagues' affinity for bureaucratese which he described as "that terrible, involved, polysyllabic language those government people use." He was inspired by the seemingly unintelligible 'language' of barnyard fowl: *gobble* means "talking turkey," while *gook* may mean a 'simpleton' (Scottish word *gowk*) or a 'cuckoo' (Middle English word *gowhe*).

Today *gobbledygook* is synonymous with overly wordy writing or speech filled with passive voice constructions, weak noun forms instead of strong verbs, and deadwood which gets in the way of clear communication.

(Maury Maverick, by the way, is the grandson of Samuel Maverick, the Texan who bequeathed his name to the type of political candidate or individual who stands apart from the herd.)

**For the Record.** Examples of gobbledygook and their 'ungobbled' forms: **at this point in time** - *now*; **is of the opinion** - *believes*; **make inquiry regarding** - *inquire*; **with reference to** - *regarding*; **in order to** - *to*; **give consideration to** - *consider*; **in this day and age** - *today* (or *now*); **of an indefinite nature** - *indefinite*; **take the place of** - *substitute*; **utilize** - *use*.

***Pinoy First.*** Kenkoy, the first true Philippine comics character, makes his debut in *Liwayway* magazine on January 11, 1929. He was created by Antonio Velasquez, the acknowledged 'Father of Philippine Comics.'

**WORD WATCH**

**Gelogenic** (je loh gen ik) : tending to produce laughter.

PDI – January 16, 2001

## If you can text, you can buy canned drinks from vending machines

INTRODUCING another first, Globe Handyphone, the cellular phone service of Globe Telecom, has recently started operating the country's first vending service that interacts with text messages from cellular phones. The new service from Globe Handyphone, which allows Globe subscribers to purchase beverages from vending machines through text messaging, is known as Mobile Vending through Globe Handyphone.

Globe uses special vending machine that has the intelligent ability to recognize and accept payments through the text messages of Globe Handyphone users. As purchases through the Globe mobile vending machines are done through text messaging, Globe Handyphone users who wish to avail of canned beverages from the facility only need to bring their cell phones – no more need to use bills or coins.

Mobile Vending through Globe Handyphone is easy to use and simple instructions on how to use it are printed on the machines. Depending on the assigned number of the machines, Globe users need only to key in a code such as "MVEND BV010" as a text message on their cell phones and send the message to Globe's '2318' service number.

After this has been done, the user will receive a text message reflecting his or her Globe Handyphone number, the amount credited for the purchase and a transaction reference number. As soon as the user has received the text message acknowledgement, the user needs to just press the button of his or her desired canned drink on the machine and proceeds to get the requested product from the dispensing slot.

Globe users who want to experience first-hand Mobile Vending through Globe Handyphone can now proceed to the Globe Business Center at the upper ground floor of Globe Telecom Plaza, along Pioneer St. in Mandaluyong from Jan. 5 to 15, 2001. During the limited period, Globe will be offering drinks from the Mobile Vending service at an introductory price of P10. The public can try the Globe Mobile Vending machine from 12 noon to 3 p.m. and 4 to 6 p.m. on weekdays; and 12 noon to 3 p.m. and 4 to 5 p.m. on Saturdays.

For every canned drink purchased through the Globe mobile vending machine during the promo period, the Globe Handyphone user will be charged P10. The amount would be reflected in the next billing statements of post-paid Globe Handyphone subscribers and for prepaid subscribers, this amount will be charged against their phone's call card credit. A regular drink price of P18 will apply after the promo period.

Mini Job Fair AT THE Glorietta

The INQUIRER's JOB MARKET will hold a "mini" Job Fair on January 24 to 26, 2001; 1 to 8 p.m. at Level 3, Glorietta III, Ayala Center, Makati City (near Racks). Be part of this recruitment special and be included in our Resumé Reserve categorized database.

PLACE A 60 COL. CM. AD (MINIMUM SIZE) IN THE JANUARY 21, 2001 ISSUE OF JOB MARKET TO ENJOY THE FOLLOWING:

- FREE Job Market Online placement for five (5) Job categories
- FREE Job Market copies for job seekers on the 3-day affair
- FREE access to our Resumé Reserve databank gathered during the event
- FREE posting and exposure to participating companies in our print ads
- Resumés gathered during the event intended to a particular advertiser will be forwarded as an added service to the said company

COME TO OUR MINI JOB FAIR AND GET THE CHANCE TO:

- Input your resumés directly into Resumé Reserve via our computers
- Get free Job Market copies
- Submit application to a particular company (Bring at least 10 to 20 copies of resumés)

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## OBITUARIES

### *Pacifico Amable Jazmines*

**Born on April 8, 1939**

*peacefully joined his Creator on January 13, 2001.*

His bereaved family: wife **Linda Erni-Jazmines**; children and children-in-law **Eric** and **Ginna**; **Marlyn** and **Noel**; **Acel** and **Dennis**; **Alex** and **Atel**; **Anet**; **Liza** and **Leo**; **Bebet**; grandchildren **Jolo, Nian, Maro**; **Chinee, Jimo**; **Kara, Daniella**; **Ria, Abiel, Mikee**; **Gerico**; brother **Jabby**; sisters **Cora, Nenita** and **Lily**; other relatives and friends request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of his soul.

His remains lie in state at the Holy Trinity Memorial Chapels, Sucat Road, Parañaque City.

Interment will be on Friday, January 19, 2001 at the Golden Haven Memorial Park, Las Piñas City, after the 2:00 PM Mass.

### GONZALO FARAON RAPADAS

**of Aparri, Cagayan**

*Died last January 14, 2001 at the age of 86.*

His remains lie in state at their family residence
at 13 Camia Street, San Antonio Valley, Talon, Las Piñas City.
Contact Nos.: 801-3489; 0919-209-9074.
Interment will be on Saturday, January 20, 2001
Golden Haven Memorial Park at 9:00 AM.

### Atty. ENRIQUE T. GALAN, SR.

*Peacefully joined his Creator on January 14, 2001 at the age of 85.*

Beloved husband of **Delia Cuaderno**; devoted father of **Diday** and **Nokie Barretto**; **Nonoy** and **Tonette**; **Tommy, Patchot**; **Ma. Victoria** (†); **Aurora** and **Peter Allsman**; **Vicky** and **Dofil de Villa**; **Martin** and **Michelle**; loving grandfather to **Angelo** and **Anton, Nino** and **ZsaZsa, Nick, Rica, Carlo, Rizzie, Bunny, Mikki, Angelica, Robert** and **Richard, Diggy** and **Ezy**; great grandchildren **Ella, Alex** and **Nathalia**; family and friends request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of his soul.

His remains lie in state at the St. Benedict College Chapel, Alabang Hills Village, Muntinlupa City.

Interment will be on Wednesday, January 17, 2001 at St. Jerome Church Crypt, Alabang, Muntinlupa City after the 10:00 AM Mass at St. Benedict Chapel.

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9206784/4540520

L-BAHAY 8383742/5447599

LBAHAY 7113540

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•LAGUNA BEL-AIR 3• LA120m² up 2-3BR w/prkg Joann 912-5775/8678942

### LOT

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Loy Mkna Lot 8386645/52

## REAL ESTATE FOR RENT

### HOUSE

**ALABANG**

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**MAKATI**

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## REAL ESTATE FOR RENT

### HOUSE

**MANILA**

MAGALLANES BUNG 3BR 1DN NWLY RENOV POOL 7337623-03 OFF HRS.

**SAN JUAN**

East Ghills P65T 4br 3tb LA950 FA400 Vac. 7215226

### CONDO/TWNHSE

**MAKATI**

1BR Furn South Str Plz 844-7524

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## TRANSPORTATION FOR SALE

### CARS

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## EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES

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HOUSEBOY NCI HS 8978933

Ofc Staff 9134470 Bong

### FEMALE

• WANTED •
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Office Staff 913-4470 Mean

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## EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES

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Experience for Secretary Preferably Living near San Juan Call 724-6735 / 7057

Newly Grad Acctg Clerk Computer Literate Excel Call Tel No. 2477076

•Ofc Staff 9134470 Hazz

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### ANNOUNCEMENT

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### LEGAL NOTICE

Notice is given that estate of the late BLAS LARA was extrajudicially settled w/ waiver of rights per Doc.2271 Pg393 BkXIX Series 2000 Atty. Ernesto M. Prias of Antipolo City PDI-Jan.9,16 & 23,2001

### PERSONAL

PRAYER TO BLESSED MOTHER
(NEVER KNOWN TO FAIL)

O most beautiful flower of Mount Carmel, fruitful vine splendor of Heaven, Blessed Mother of the Son of God, Immaculate Virgin, assist me in this necessity, Oh star of the sea help me and show me, herein you are my Mother Oh Holy Mary, Mother of God, Queen of Heaven and Earth, I humbly beseech You from the bottom of My Heart to succor me in this necessity there are none that can withstand Your power. Oh show me herein You are Mother.

Oh Mary, conceived without sin. Pray for us who have recoursed to thee (3x).

Sweet Mother, I place this cause in Your hands (3x).

Thank you for Your mercy toward me and being mine.

Thank you Mama Mary for answering my prayers. Amen.

*(This prayer must be said for three days and after three days, your request will be granted and the prayer must be published.)*

THANK YOU SACRED HEART OF JESUS AND IMMACULATE HEART OF MARY ·

THANK YOU HOLY SPIRIT

---

**PHILIPPINE NATIONAL OIL COMPANY**
PNOC Building VI, Energy Center
Merritt Road, Fort Bonifacio, Metro Manila
Tel. Nos.: 555-0254; 845-0832

## INVITATION TO PRE-QUALIFY AND BID

The **PHILIPPINE NATIONAL OIL COMPANY (PNOC)** invites interested Suppliers to submit sealed bids for the Company requirements:

**BAR CODE INVENTORY SYSTEM**

a. Software - Inventory System
b. Hardware - Data Terminal and Printer

Project No. : PS 200104
Pre-Bid Meeting : January 23, 2001 (2:00 PM)
Pre-Qualification Deadline : January 26, 2001 (4:00 PM)
Bid Deadline : February 8, 2001 (2:00 PM)

Interested ACCREDITED parties may obtain bid forms upon payment of a non-refundable fee of P100.00 per bid package from the PNOC - Property and Supply Management Division (PSMD) at the G/F of the PNOC Building.

Interested parties who are not yet accredited must first pass the pre-qualification process. Pre-qualification documents-checklist is available at the said address upon payment of a non-refundable fee of P100.00, which must be accomplished and submitted to PSMD on or before the set deadline. Failure to pre-qualify would render the concerned parties automatically disqualified from this bidding.

For purposes of clarifying issues, interested bidders are encouraged to attend the Pre-Bid Conference as scheduled.

All bids must be accompanied by a bid security equivalent to 10% of the total bid price but not to exceed ONE HUNDRED THOUSAND PESOS (P100,000.00) secured from any one of PNOC's accredited bonding companies.

The PNOC reserves the right to accept or reject any or all bids or parts thereof, to waive formality therein or to accept such bids or to award any work that are considered most advantageous to the company.

(Sgd.) **ATTY. PEDRO A. AQUINO, JR.**
Chairman, PBAC

(PDI – Jan. 16, 2001)

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Republic of the Philippines
**DEPARTMENT OF NATIONAL DEFENSE**
Camp General Emilio Aguinaldo
Quezon City

## INVITATION TO PRE-QUALIFY AND BID

The Office of the Secretary of National Defense (OSND) invites interested parties to pre-qualify and bid for the following equipment:

Computer equipment:

1. 33 units - Desktop Pentium III 600 MHZ
2. 5 units - Notebook Computer Intel Pentium III 400 MHZ
3. 3 units - LCD/Multi-media Projector with screen and carrying casing
4. 3 units - Electronic Bundy Clock (Fingerprint scanner)

Firearms and related equipment:

5. 5 units - Machine Pistol (MP-5 Pistol with mag (30) rds)
6. 2 units - Assault rifle (HK G-36 cal. 5.56mm with 5 mag (30) rds)
7. 10 units - Bullet proof vest level III
8. 1 unit - Reloading machine and accessories

Bidders are requested to submit the following documents/requirements for items 1-4 for pre-qualification on or before 19 January 2001 and items 5-8 on or before 26 January 2001 at 10:00 AM at the Procurement Branch, Office of the Administrative Services, DND, Camp Aguinaldo, Quezon City, telephone number 911-8118.

1. SEC/DTI Registration
2. Articles of Incorporation/Partnership
3. Latest Business/License Permit (2000)
4. Audited Financial Statements (attach ITR) for the last two years
5. VAT registration certificate
6. List of clients for the last two (2) years together with address, telephone number, contact person.

Inquiries for the details and particulars on bid documents, specifications and other details shall also be provided during office hours at the Office of the Administrative Services, OSND. Pre-bid conferences shall be held on 19 January 2001 at 10:00 AM, DND Social Hall (for items 1-4) and on 26 January 2001, 9:00 AM, at the same venue (for items 5-8). Bid proposals shall be opened for items 1-4 on 26 January 2001, at 10:00 AM and items 5-8 on February 5, 2001, at 2:00 PM, at the OASCOM, Conference Room.

The OSND reserves the right to reject any or all bids, waive any formality and award the contract to the bidder whose proposal is the most advantageous to the government as evaluated by the OSND Pre-qualification, Bids and Awards Committee (OSND PBAC).

(Sgd.) **FRANCISCO S. CRUZ, MD, MPH, CESO II**
Assistant Secretary for Comptrollership
Chairman, Bid and Award Committee

(PDI – Jan. 16, 2001)

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# AUCTION

*Equipment formerly the property of Read-Rite Philippines Inc.*

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# ERRATUM

In the ad of TARLAC II Electric Cooperative Inc. re: Invitation to Prequalify and to Bid published on this paper dated January 15, 2001 the telephone number **should be (045) 923-0449.**

Our apologies.

# Government fast-tracks land distribution

EXACTLY 57,748 families will benefit from the move of the government to grant individual titles to government lands being occupied by informal settlers.

Housing and Urban Development Coordinating Council chair Leonora V. de Jesus said the program allows said communities to own the land they are occupying through the issuance of presidential proclamations.

Earlier, Presidential Proclamation 366 allocated additional lands of the Tala Estate Leprosarium as housing units.

The proclamation answered the urgent need to provide permanent housing for the bona fide residents, and their immediate families, personnel of the Department of Health and other qualified occupants of the Tala Estate.

### Awarding

In October, the HUDCC awarded titles to approximately 100 fully paid beneficiaries and reconfirmed the awarding to some 1,900 recipients who are still amortizing their lots within the national government center housing project (NGCHP)—west side.

The NGCHP will dispose 184 hectares of land within the NGC to informal settlers in the area.

The HUDCC is also pursuing the development of the 158-hectare property of the Asset Privatization Trust in Dasmariñas and Bacoor, Cavite, for socialized and low-cost housing and mixed-use development under Proclamation 209.

### Socialized housing

In Iloilo, certain parcels of land had been set aside for socialized housing under Proclamation 419.

Similarly, under Proclamation 427, exactly 52 out of the 62-hectare property of the Air Transportation Office had been declared in favor of the informal settlers living in the property.

The HUDCC has entered into an agreement with the Catholic Church authorities in Metro Manila on the completion of land development and construction of six buildings for housing in Sta. Ana, Manila, a clear signal that housing is an area where the Church and the government could work together.

Meantime, De Jesus said the HUDCC has identified a shortlist of government-owned lands totaling 6,518 hectares for socialized housing.

### Residential use

The government housing agency is also coordinating with the Department of Agriculture and other concerned agencies to determine which lands are available for residential use, as well as to simplify the requirements needed to convert lands to such use.

According to De Jesus, her office is working on the detailed mechanics to accelerate the provision of land tenure security through the legalization of informal settlers occupying properties owned by the government, government-owned corporation and local government units.

On Nov. 7, President Estrada issued memorandum order 120, establishing an interagency committee composed of the PCUP, National Housing Authority, the HUDCC, Office of the Solicitor General, NAPC and the Quezon City government to formulate a housing program for the informal settlers in the 37-hectare North Triangle property.

**TOPPING OFF CEREMONY**

Members of the board of directors of the soon-to-be-operational First Asia Institute of Technology and Humanities preside over the recent topping off ceremony marking the completion of the structural frame of Building 9, one of the 11 medium-rise buildings to rise at the 5-hectare school complex in Tanauan, Batangas. From left are Mads Javellana, Baby Carandang, unidentified individual, president Saturnino G. Belen Jr., EVP Samuel Yap and Eric Caballero. First Asia will feature a completely wired and networked campus that will offer IT/ Engineering and Humanities courses to equip the youth in the Calabarzon region with proper training and experience. Alvarez + Alvarez is the building designer and Skylarc Design Group has been commissioned as construction manager. The general contractor is Ross Systems International Inc.

# Empire East Properties to set up branch offices

AFFORDABLE housing developer Empire East Properties Inc. is actively tapping and cultivating its client base in progressive areas in and out of Metro Manila with a strategy to set up a number of satellite sales offices in key locations to market its flagship Governor's Hills residential and commercial community in Gen. Trias, Cavite.

The satellite offices to be set up in Metro Manila and nearby provinces will serve as command centers for sales-related activities and manpower recruitment and training in their respective coverage areas. Called "little EEPIs," these will be headed by branch sales managers who will recruit and train a number of marketing directors and real estate consultants as well as establish ties with outside brokers.

The company plans to open at least four branch sales offices by the first half of the year. The first sales office is set to start operation along a commercially active stretch of the Aguinaldo Highway in Dasmariñas, Cavite, by the end of the month. A second office will be opened on the Alabang-Zapote Road near the SM Southmall in the city of Muntinlupa.

The EEPI also intends to cover all bases in Metro Manila with plans to put up satellite offices catering to residents of Manila, Mandaluyong, Pasig and Quezon City. Each sales office is expected to generate sales within a 500-kilometer radius.

To complement this expansion plan, the company is beefing up its top-tier sales team through the recruitment of more senior sales people as branch managers. Since the EEPI sales group was reorganized to make it more focused and effective, the total number of sales people working for the firm has risen by 800 percent.

EEPI assistant vice president for sales and marketing Emil Perez Jr. said the company's sales record for Governor's Hills has also markedly improved since it embarked on its strategic policy of generating sales and introducing innovative product lines.

## THE LAKESHORE

# A paradigm of new urbanism

NEW urbanism is a European-influenced planning paradigm that emerged in the 1980s in the United States. Mobility or road and rail base transportation in the early 20th century led to the growth and expansion of the suburbs.

Central Country Estate Inc., a consortium of Metro Pacific Corp., Nobleman Properties Inc., Nestor S. Mangio Construction and Development Corp., capitalizes on this model in developing "The Lakeshore" in Pampanga just 54 km from Balintawak, Metro Manila. The Lakeshore will cater to Metro Manila City workers, Pampangueños, residents of the nearby provinces, *balikbayans*, retirees and overseas Filipino workers (OFWs). It is located at Km 71 of the North Luzon Expressway.

The key elements of new urbanism present in The Lakeshore include accessibility from the San Fernando Exit and the soon-to-be-built Mexico Interchange. The planned gasoline and food service facilities at Km 71 of North Luzon Expressway with parking for 300 cars and buses would serve as the transit station for residents or motorists coming in and out of The Lakeshore. Residents could then walk or take the shuttle that will bring them to their residences via the 25-meter and 20-meter-wide Main Boulevard planted with palm trees on its median. With the expansion and upgrading of the North Luzon Expressway, traveling to Balintawak will only take 35 minutes and 12 minutes to Clark Special Economic Zone and International Airport. The 20-meter-wide main road leading to their gated community will be free flowing since there are no residential houses fronting the road.

### Pedestrian friendly

To encourage walking and social interaction among residents, the road networks are a combination of linear and cul de sac. The pedestrian lane has been designed with the pedestrian in mind. Sidewalks along the main boulevard are wide with trees on both sides to shade and cool the pedestrians. Landscaping with flowering trees and plants will provide a beautiful and refreshing sight. Many of the lots, especially in the first 85-hectare development, are designed to be walking distance to the lake, commercial center, church, school and gas station or transit station. Filipinos tend to walk a distance of about 600 meters.

A 20-meter-wide promenade from the transit station to the lake will be constructed to provide social interaction. The promenade will be lined with street cafés and restaurants overlooking the 18-meter white water jet fountain lake landmark. On weekdays, the promenade will serve as a marketplace for local products, Pampanga delicacies and other products. Christmas will be best celebrated in the promenade with a giant Christmas tree, *bibingkahan* and the cool breeze from the 12-hectare lake with a floating giant lantern. Patios, decks, boardwalks, parks and picnic grounds, pedestrian and jogging paths along the lake will encourage fellowship among residents.

### Compact and mix land use

Out of the 240-hectare total land development, 85 hectares have been designated for the first phase which includes residential, retail, restaurants, offices, shop houses, school, church, recreational, gas and transit station and other uses that are necessary for everyday life.

Although The Lakeshore caters to buyers of 150-600 sq. m. lots, other lots of more or less the same sizes are grouped together. Each one has its own gated community. Privacy and security will be well maintained in each enclave by providing secured gateways. The initial 5 communities are named The Lakeshore, The Lakeside, Stonegate, Cross Creek and Wood Bridge. Each of the enclaves will be provided their own park and playground aside from the bigger park on both ends of the 12-hectare lake. The Lakeshore will have a Spanish, Italian-Mediterranean theme, which will be beautifully executed in the model homes to be built. Guidelines and restrictions are to be implemented for consistency of character and architecture.

For the first phase the ratio of open spaces to saleable area is 50-50. The 12-hectare lake and pedestrian park around the lake plus the 2 parks and picnic grounds on both ends of the lake are the main features and open spaces of this development. The lake is designed for active use such as fishing, boating, windsurfing and aqua cycling. The lake also features an island for swan and bird sanctuary. To serve as an aeration device and a landmark of the lake an 18-meter-high water-jet fountain will be installed.

Overall the total saleable area for the whole 240-hectare development would only be 62.3 percent. The CCEI is able to afford this since it is both the landowner and developer of the project.

### The clubhouse and hotel

Lot buyers will have the privilege of using the facilities of the clubhouse which will have a covered basketball court, tennis court, badminton and billiards, snack and coffee shop. The clubhouse will have a huge function room divisible into smaller rooms for social functions. Adult and kids pool, water slide and an infinity artificial beach pool will be constructed by the lake.

Planned alongside the clubhouse is a cozy resort hotel with a garden overlooking the lake. It will have casitas or villas for guests, tourists and travelers of the expressway. The garden overlooking the lake will serve as a venue for outdoor celebrations. The hotel will also cater to conferences and conventions using the function rooms of the adjacent clubhouse.

### The vision

The Lakeshore offers an alternative to urban living, an escape from the hustle and bustle of the city yet with urban facilities and amenities. SM opened last month and Robinsons is slated to start this year. Mega and Themed Malls will be just 5 minutes away. An adjacent golf course is also under construction, Central Country Estate Inc. intends to offer affordable house and lot packages next year, responsive to the needs of the market.

With all this development, the CCEI is cognizant also of the communities around The Lakeshore. In its recent vision and mission planning session, it commits to help upgrade the standard of living and the quality of life of its surrounding communities. It intends to share some of its facilities and amenities with its neighbors for them to enjoy. The CCEI will tap their manpower from these communities and pursue The Lakeshore mission "Kapitbahay and Spiritual Outreach" with its neighbors. The Lakeshore intends to offer a therapeutic environment. Now, you can choose the environment you want to live in.

**BROADBAND-READY BUILDING**

Broadband Philippines, the country's premiere broadband service provider, signs up with Urbancorp Realty Developers Inc. (Urdi) to transform the Urban Bank Tower to become a broadband-ready building. At the contract signing are Urdi president Mario Padilla and Broadband Philippines chair and CEO Joey de Venecia III.

# Real estate updates in Rebap's 2-day seminar

A SEMINAR on "Real Estate Brokering in the New Millennium" and "Update on Government Laws and Policies with Impact on Real Estate" will be conducted by the Real Estate Brokers Association of the Philippines Inc. (Rebap) on Jan. 20 and 27 (Saturdays), from 8 a.m. to 6 p.m. at the Manila Galleria Suites, Ortigas Avenue, Pasig City.

Rebap national president Janette SJ Hernandez said the seminar is intended to keep the participants abreast of the ongoing practices and trends in the realty industry. Real estate brokers attending the two-day undertaking will earn the 16-hour continuing education program (CEP) credits required by the Department of Trade and Industry for the renewal of their broker's licenses next year.

Among the eight topics up for discussion are the power of the Internet for real estate brokers; revolutionary ideas and global trends in urban planning; property management; material legal information on brokering rawland; street-smart appraisal techniques for real estate brokers; laws on land use; development and control; property relations in, the family code; Impact of comprehensive tax reform on real estate. Seminar director is CRB Lilian Matic-Cruz. The Rebap office is located at the 2nd floor, Creba Bldg., corner Don A. Roces Ave. and South A St., Quezon City

# Realtors board sets CEP seminar for license renewal

THE PASAY-MAKATI Realtors Board Inc. is conducting for its members, associates and friends the "Ultimate Continuing Education Program (CEP)" Opportunity until Jan. 20 ((8-hour CEP credits) from 8:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. The comprehensive program is being held at the 2nd Floor, Claro Room, Max's Restaurant, Greenbelt Park, Makati City. It started the CEP on Jan. 13.

Being discussed are such interesting subjects as property management; land title fraud; real estate taxation; contract documentation and registration; laws relating to real estate development; property development; legal aspects of sale, lease and mortgage; and appraisal fundamentals for real estate brokers.

This event is in line with the DTI-BTRCP new regulation that all licensed real estate brokers must renew their licenses for this year. It is part of the program to provide service to the real estate industry through the CEP for the renewal of license of real estate brokers.

Interested parties may call up the PMRB secretariat at 893-0569 or 893-0585 or e-mail at pmrb@broline.com or visit our office for early reservation at Unit 502-P Parking Building, Cityland 10, H.V. dela Costa St., Ayala Avenue, Makati City.

All licensed brokers, who have not yet complied with the required hours for renewal of licenses, are invited to attend. This two-day series of seminars satisfies the 16-hour requirement for CEP accreditation necessary for license renewal.

**AGREEMENT**

Moldex Realty Marketing Inc. recently signed an agreement with international property consultants firm FPD Savills to be an accredited marketing partner for The 1322 Roxas Boulevard, the most prestigious landmark to grace Manila. Shown during the lunch meeting at Fishing Village Restaurant on Roxas Boulevard are MRMI president Editha L. Manansala and AVP Alejandro S. Mañalac and FPD Savills associate director for residential Kristina Templeton.

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# REAL ESTATE

CESAR D. MANGAWANG, Editor

## Gov't has 'very strong case' vs 2 business groups, says OSG

BY JERRY ESPLANADA

THE GOVERNMENT has a "very strong case" against two business groups blocking its bid to recover a 99.6-hectare prime property in Las Piñas City worth nearly P30 billion, according to the Office of the Solicitor General.

In a memorandum to the Supreme Court, the OSG noted that "the land in question could not have been titled in 1929 as the area was still part of unclassified forestland and was not declassified as alienable and disposable."

Solicitor General Ricardo Galvez pointed out that the whole of Las Piñas was originally classified as forestland until 1928 when some 1,200 hectares of the entire 2,556 ha. comprising the town was declared alienable and disposable.

But the disputed land was not part of the 1928 declaration, Galvez said.

### Public domain

In asking the high tribunal to revert the subject land in Tindig na Mangga, near the posh Ayala-Alabang Village, to public domain, the OSG said "the application for private ownership of the subject property is considered null and void for the simple reason that the same was instituted at a time when it had not yet been released by government as alienable and disposable."

"The legal presumption is that unless clearly established as alienable and disposable, unclassified lands are not alienable and disposable," state lawyers emphasized.

### 'Fake land titles'

The private firm Firestone Ceramic Inc., which is claiming 3.7 ha. of the property and an intervenor in the land case, insisted the respondents' land titles were fake.

In the Las Piñas land case, Firestone's petition was consolidated with a related petition by the Estrada administration.

The real estate firm Peltan Development Inc., owned by businessman Allen Roxas, and the Espinosa group claim ownership over more than 75 ha. of the disputed real estate.

Allen Roxas is the brother of Luke Roxas, president of the ASB Holdings Inc., a real estate firm allegedly involved in a P12-billion financial fraud.

The state won the first two rounds in its legal battle against Peltan and the Espinosa group. First, it succeeded in convincing the high court in taking up the case in a full-court hearing. Then in a resolution, the Supreme Court denied with finality the respondents' motion for reconsideration of its June 28 decision to take up the state and Firestone's petitions.

### How they voted

Voting in favor of the government and Firestone's pleas were Chief Justice Hilario Davide Jr. and Associate Justices Josue Bellosillo, Reynato Puno, Santiago Kapunan, Vicente Mendoza, Arturo Buena, Consuelo Yñares-Santiago, Sabino de Leon Jr. and then Associate Justice Fidel Purisima.

The six dissenting associate justices were Jose Melo, Jose Vitug, Artemio Panganiban, Leonardo Quisumbing, Bernardo Pardo and Minerva Gonzaga-Reyes.

Meanwhile, Firestone Ceramic has brushed aside the Espinosa group's allegation that it was muddling the issue of possession by allegedly invoking court rulings, which the private firm was never a party to.

Firestone lawyers said that "contrary to such claim, Firestone's predecessors—the heirs of Benito Gonzales, from whom it bought the property—have been in possession of the subject land since 1917 as shown by a previous decision of the Court of Appeals (CA-GR SP No. 44302) where the 30 security guards of Top Star Security Agency contracted by Peltan Development Inc. to provide security services for the property were ordered to vacate the same."

"The Supreme Court affirmed the said decision in its resolution dated Jan. 28, 1998 (in GR No. 131603) with finality," Firestone said in a statement.

Firestone also asserted that "the claim of the Espinosas that they are in possession of the land since 1956 is simply not true."

### Ocular inspection

In September, DENR Secretary Antonio Cerilles created a team to conduct an ocular inspection of the area covered by original certificate of title No. 4216.

"The DENR team was able to gain entry into the property with the permission of Gonzalo Gonzales, the original survey claimant and caretaker of the land. Except for a guardhouse and a bunker, no other structure was found in the area subjected to inspection," Firestone said.

The Espinosas' lawyers described as "misplaced and erroneous" Firestone's claim of possession, saying it "cannot override the final and binding effect of the decree of registration issued in LRC case No. 672, which decree of registration has the effect of foreclosing any and all prior claims on the land subject matter thereof."

They added that the same decree, from which the titles of the Espinosas, Peltan and other individual owners have been derived, "has been affirmed four times by the Supreme Court as valid and genuine."

But the OSG said "the issue in the petition filed by the republic revolved on the validity of the judgment over a vast tract of land at a time when the said parcel of land was still a forestland."

"The cancellation of original certificate of title No. 4216 and the reversion of the land covered by said title to the state is predicated not on the better title of one party against that of another but on the fact that the land was simply not alienable and disposable at the time it was titled to Lorenzo Gana from whom the Espinosas acquired the titles," the OSG added.

## Las Piñas land row alarms Metro property owners

THE LEGAL dispute over a 99-hectare land in Las Piñas City has alarmed Metro Manilans, especially those tens of thousands of residential lot owners whose small properties are all they have for shelter.

Their concern stems from persistent attempts by a Chinese-owned firm to make the court nullify the land titles issued in Las Piñas City in 1928 and have these superseded by those issued in 1969.

Firestone Ceramics of Chinese businessman Mariano Nocom has elevated this case to the Supreme Court en banc ,in pursuit of its ownership claim to 18 of those 99 hectares.

The case involves original certificate of title (OCT) A-S 47 issued on July 22, 1969 by the Registry of Deeds of Rizal but which has already been declared null and void by the Supreme Court.

Instead, OCT 4216, from which the land titles of the original owners were derived, was the one upheld by the Supreme Court four times as valid and genuine.

### Affecting land ownership

But Firestone Ceramics' bid to reverse that court decision is reportedly seen to affect land ownership not only in Las Piñas City but also those in Quezon City, Marikina and the rest of Metro Manila, thus alarming their residents.

"Even the properties of the Ayalas, the Legardas and other historically landed families would be affected. That includes those who may have bought lands from them. All in all, the case may involve probably hundreds of thousands of residents, especially less privileged among them," said the lawyers of the Espinosas, one of the many owners of land titles derived from OCT 4216.

However, in another attempt to pursue its alleged ownership of the property, Firestone Ceramics this time claims to have been in its possession since 1917.

Such claim, which the company raised only recently, was described by the Espinosas' lawyers as a mere attempt to muddle the issue on possession after it, OCT A-S 47 had been nullified by the Supreme Court in favor of OCT 4216.

### Muddling the issue

Lawyers Sabino Padilla Jr. and Eduardo P. Lizares, representing the Espinosas, asked the Supreme Court not to allow "Firestone Ceramic Inc. to muddle the issue of title involved in this case."

The lawyers noted that for the first time in the long duration of the case, Firestone claims that the heirs of Benito Gonzales, from whom it bought the property, have been in possession of the land since 1917.

In presenting their arguments, the Espinosas' lawyers said:

"Private petitioners (Firestone) have not refuted the fact that the Espinosas and Peltan (Development Inc.) have erected a concrete hollow block fence enclosing the entire party; that the Espinosas have been paying realty taxes since 1956 when they acquired the property from Veronica Gana, the daughter of the original registered owners; that the private petitioners themselves have admitted that they could not enter into possession of the subject property because the property was possessed by the Espinosas and Peltan."

Moreover, the Espinosas' lawyers described Firestone's claim (based upon supposed possession of the property by Benito Gonzales since 1917) as misplaced and erroneous, saying:

"Private petitioners' outlandish claim of possession supposedly emanating from 1917 cannot override the final and binding effect of the decree of registration issued (in 1928) in LRC Case No. 672, which decree of registration has the effect of foreclosing any and all prior claims on the land subject matter thereof."

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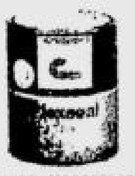

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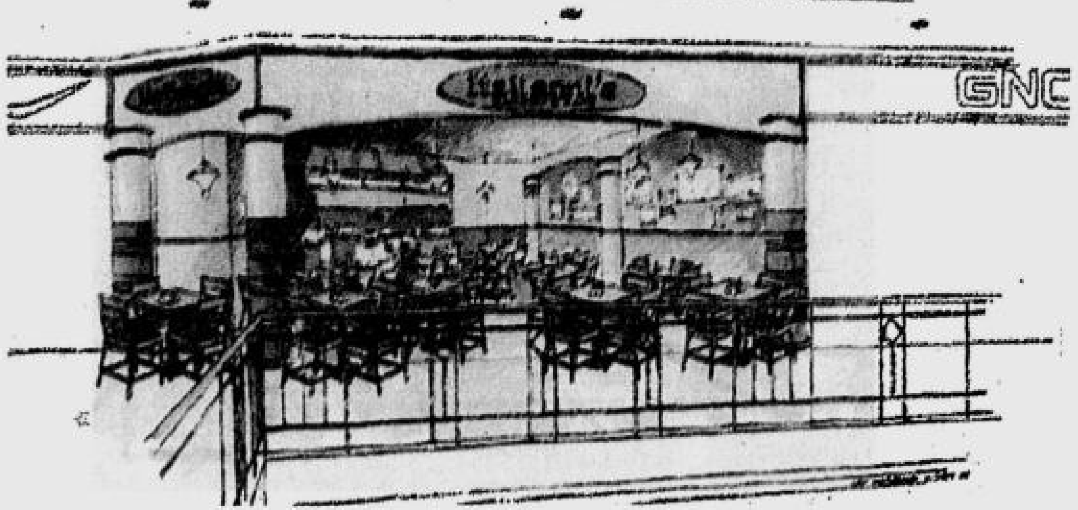

ITALIANNI'S BAKERY & CAFÉ OPENS

Italianni's Bakery & Café will open at Glorietta IV next month. The new concept is a small replica of the full-scale Italianni's Restaurant in Greenbelt, Makati, that has captured the palate of diners who crave for American-Italian dishes. Shown is the architect's perspective of the 80-seater bakery and café. Though smaller in capacity, the new outlet will still carry Italianni's trademark—homey dining atmosphere and ebullient service by friendly and efficient staff. The opening of Italianni's Bakery & Café is part of Bistro Holdings Corp.'s expansion plans for this year. Opening in Sta. Lucia East in March this year is a 160-seater T.G.I. Friday's Restaurant while a full-size Outback Steakhouse will rise in Alabang in April this year.

## Housing body disposes of idle housing units

THE HOUSING and Urban Development Coordinating Council has intensified its disposition of idle and unoccupied housing units "as-is-where-is" to address the pressing demand for housing.

More than 100,000 such idle housing units are available. Most of the houses were products of poorly planned housing projects of previous administrations that had not take into account the financial capabilities of the beneficiaries.

The idle housing units were part of the P45 billion spent for housing loans but could not be recovered by government housing loan agencies.

HUDCC chair Leonora V. de Jesus said that in the past, housing loans were secured by supposed borrowers through private developers who, in turn, recommended these to the funding agencies. In many instances, initial investigations showed the borrowers could have been fictitious.

The unoccupied and idle housing units are now being sold at drastically discounted prices or under lease-purchase agreements, according to De Jesus.

She said the sale aims to provide immediate funds that can be plowed back to implement other housing projects. At the same time it will address the demand for readily available but affordable housing units, De Jesus added.

To implement disposition, the concerned housing agencies have sent out notices of cancellation of the contract to sell as initial legal action to delinquent borrowers who fail to pay their monthly amortization for at least three consecutive months.

At the same time, De Jesus said that the HUDCC and the government housing agencies under it implemented the "rent-to-own program to provide adequate and affordable housing to low-income workers while ensuring that the flow of funds for housing is sustained.

Under the program, idle and unoccupied housing units in various parts of the country are made available for rental for a period of time, after which the lessee may opt to purchase the property.

De Jesus also revealed that the housing agencies are working on the implementation of a mass rental program for the informal sector.

The HUDCC is formulating a comprehensive study on the program with payment schedules for straight rental, rent-to-own and outright sales schemes of housing units.

President Estrada had earlier ordered the speedy disposition of the remaining housing units, such as the PEA Coastal Plaza Condominium Project and Pabahay 2000, by selling said units at discounted prices to teachers, the police and military personnel.

"Now, I want everything to last."

The same is true in Kris Aquino's choice of tiles. Her floor, all covered by Eurotiles, says it all—scratch-free even in the face of son Joshua's roughest toys.

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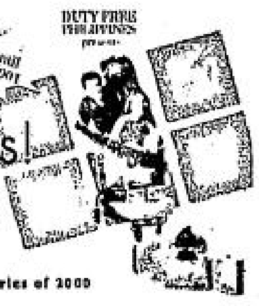
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TUESDAY, JANUARY 16, 2001 PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

LIFESTYLE

CHELO BANAL-FORMOSO, Editor

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Fitness

**ANTON** Carag Jr. (second from left) and Bridget Findley (right) hurdle the wild rapids of the Chico River.

Rafting not only provides a unique river trip but a bonding experience as well

# Whitewater chargers

By Rowena C. Burgos

**ACCOMPLISHED whitewater rafters know the feeling: the exhilarating, life-affirming sensation that comes from charging wild rivers.**

To these outfitters, the biggest thrill is provided by the challenge of whitewater, the swift and foamy state of rivers and streams when the water is high and fast. The control of a raft under these conditions requires the greatest skill, coordination and experience.

It's the essence of any sport to confront a challenge, physical or intellectual, with a twinge of danger that often adds to the thrill. Whitewater rafting, indeed, meets that criterion. It basically started in the United States with surplus military pontoons and rafts from World War II. Today, rafting is popular as a pleasant exercise and fun activity. It has grown by leaps and bounds in New Zealand, Australia, Europe, South America and is fast picking up in the Philippines.

"It's a relatively safe sport. As it becomes more popular, certain safety standards should be met," says Bridget Findley, one of the world's most experienced and accomplished international river guides, having guided and led expeditions in the wildest regions of North America, Central America, South America and Africa.

Recently, Bridget and her husband Greg conducted a rafting guide clinic at the Chico River in Bontoc upon the invitation of Anton Carag Jr. and Didi and Val Camara of Adventures and Expeditions Philippines Inc. (AEPI), a company that has been conducting rafting and kayaking tour packages in Cagayan and Kalinga-Apayao for two years now.

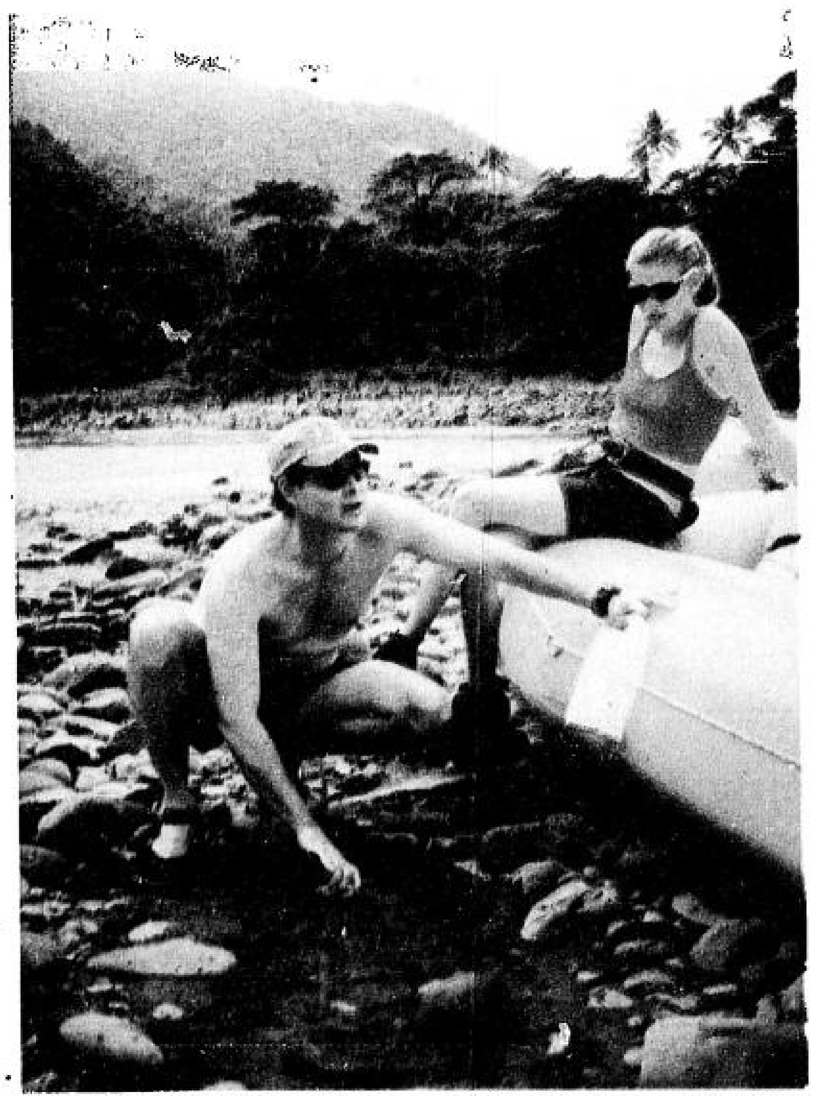
The Findleys manage Mukuni Wilderness Whitewater Expeditions, an internationally recognized wilderness specialist based in Bozeman, Montana, dedicated to providing incomparable travel experiences in a sustainable and responsible manner. Greg has led expeditions to California's Forks of the Kern, the Bio Bio and Futaleufu Rivers in Chile, Peru's Apurimac, Turkey's Coruh and numerous other challenging rivers.

"Before AEPI was established, many Filipinos were into whitewater kayaking in Tiglao, Antique and Cagayan de Oro. It's relatively new so we invited Greg and Bridget to set local standards to international levels. We want to make sure that we have the skills for rescue and safety measures so we wouldn't kill the industry while still in its infancy stage," Anton explains.

### Adventure sports

According to the Findleys, the Philippines belongs to the ivy league of whitewater rafting, kayaking and other adventure sports destinations. So the likes of the Chico River, which they describe as "one of the best stretches in the world," have captured the interest of Mukuni, which plans to include AEPI's tours as part

WHITEWATER/ p.C3


**HUSBAND-AND-WIFE TEAM:** Greg and Bridget Findley conduct a rafting guide clinic in Bontoc.

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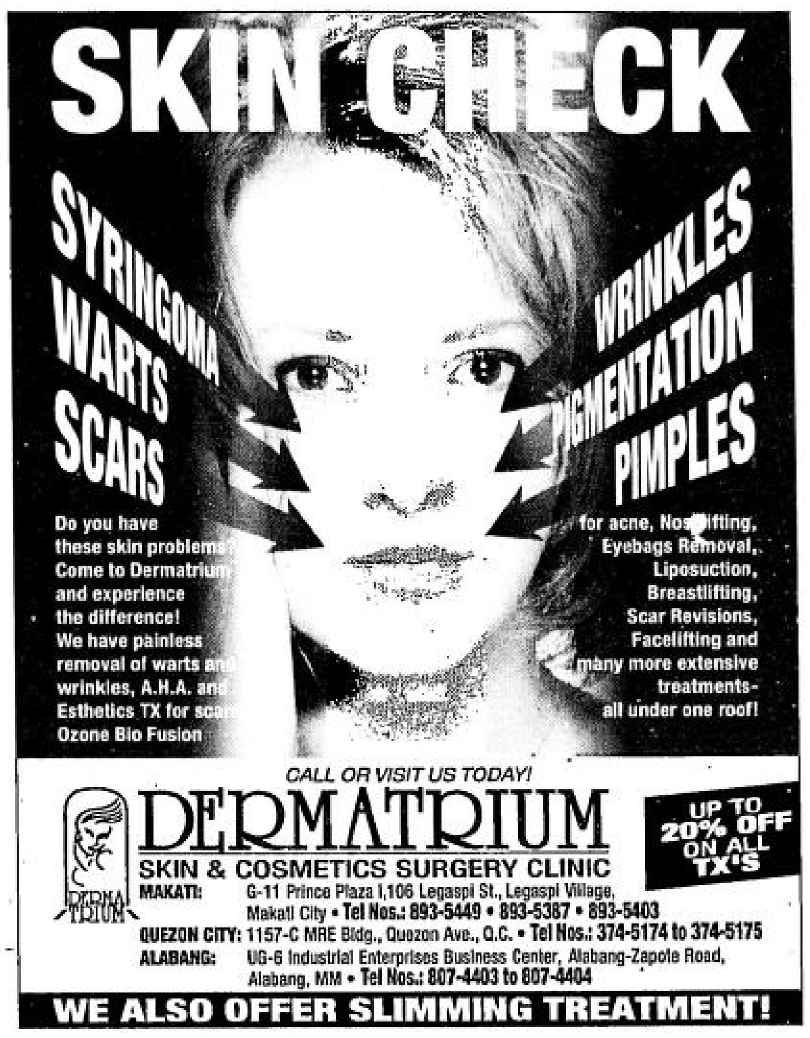
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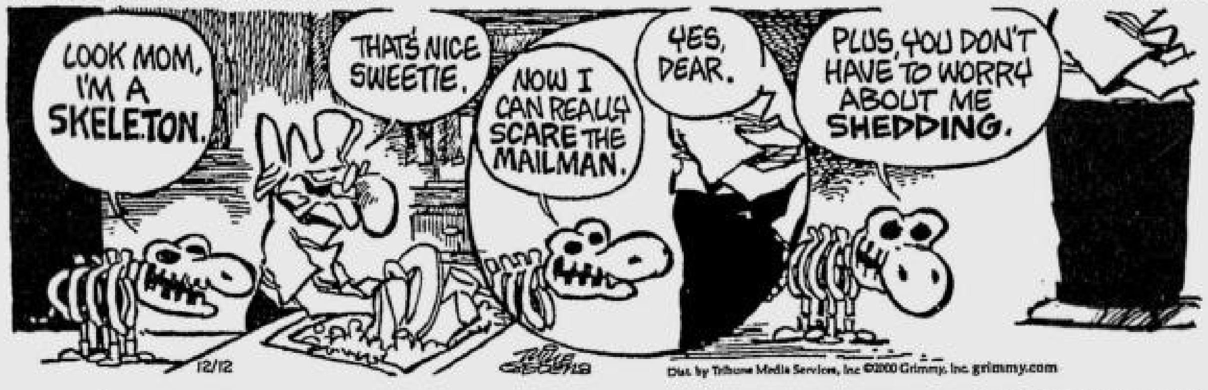
### MOTHER GOOSE & GRIMM

BY MIKE PETERS


LOOK MOM, I'M A SKELETON.
THAT'S NICE SWEETIE.
NOW I CAN REALLY SCARE THE MAILMAN.
YES, DEAR.
PLUS, YOU DON'T HAVE TO WORRY ABOUT ME SHEDDING.
12/12

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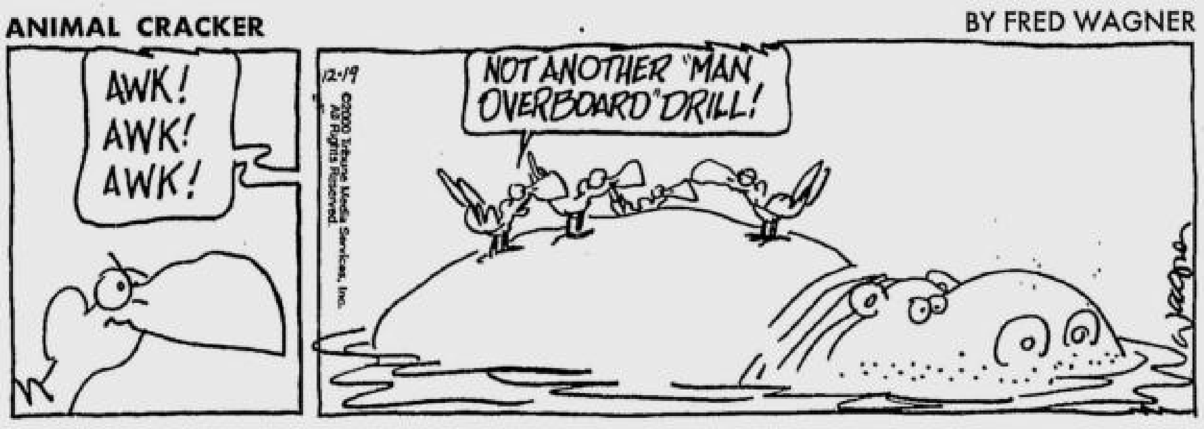
### ANIMAL CRACKER

BY FRED WAGNER


AWK! AWK! AWK!
12-19
NOT ANOTHER "MAN OVERBOARD" DRILL!

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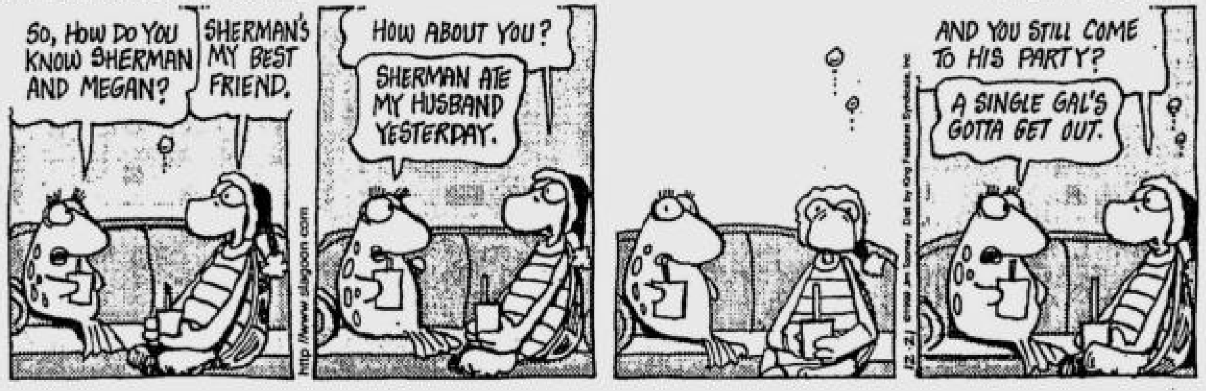
### SHERMAN'S LAGOON

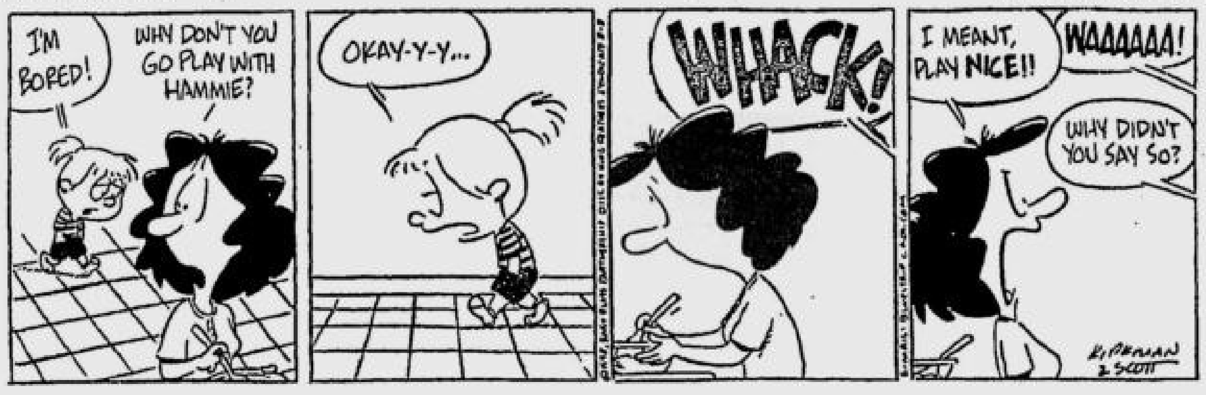
BY JIM TOOMEY


SO, HOW DO YOU KNOW SHERMAN AND MEGAN?
SHERMAN'S MY BEST FRIEND.
HOW ABOUT YOU?
SHERMAN ATE MY HUSBAND YESTERDAY.
AND YOU STILL COME TO HIS PARTY?
A SINGLE GAL'S GOTTA GET OUT.
12-21

http://www.slagoon.com

### BABY BLUES

BY JERRY SCOTT


I'M BORED!
WHY DON'T YOU GO PLAY WITH HAMMIE?
OKAY-Y-Y...
WHACK!
I MEANT, PLAY NICE!!
WAAAAAA!
WHY DIDN'T YOU SAY SO?
KIRKMAN & SCOTT

## HOROSCOPE

BY EUGENIA LAST

**CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY:** Debbie Allen, Jim Stafford, William Kennedy, A.J. Foyt, Marilyn Horne, Ethel Merman, Sade, Kate Moss, Aaliyah

**Happy Birthday:** Don't act in haste. Plan your actions and know in your heart what you truly want. Use your good common sense to lead you in the right direction, and you will have no regrets. You will be creative this year, which will enable you to develop all sorts of interesting things to keep you amused. Your numbers: 7, 12, 17, 23, 26, 34

**ARIES (March 21-April 19):** You will want to argue that black is white today. Avoid confrontations with others, and don't push your beliefs and attitudes unless you're prepared to accept estrangement.

**TAURUS (April 20-May 20):** You can expect to have major problems with relatives or close friends today. Emotional confrontations will develop into a loss of trust or loyalty. Listen instead of retaliating.

**GEMINI (May 21-June 20):** Don't let others put too many demands on you. Concentrate on your career, not on your personal life. Refrain from getting involved in unwise financial schemes.

**CANCER (June 21-July 22):** You will be livid if you allow your mate to bait you into an argument. You won't accomplish anything if you take an aggressive approach. Go out shopping and pamper yourself.

**LEO (July 23-Aug. 22):** You will want to be on the go today. Don't be careless, or minor accidents will result. You should look into courses that interest you or listen to those who have interesting philosophical views. You are ready to make changes for yourself.

**VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22):** Children may cause a problem today. Do not let them cost more than you can afford and don't give in to those trying to put too many demands on you.

**LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22):** Changes in your personal life may not be to your liking, so it's better to focus on your professional goals for the time being. You need some time to yourself.

**SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21):** Work can be quite favorable if you stick to your job and don't interfere in other people's affairs. Your energy must be directed wisely if you wish to advance.

**SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21):** Sudden changes in your financial situation may be detrimental if you have chosen to get involved in dubious ventures. Avoid making contributions.

**CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19):** Don't be surprised if your lover is not too happy with you today. Neglect is probably the main issue. Try to do something special to avoid discord.

**AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18):** You may find it difficult to control your temper with co-workers. Keep your private thoughts to yourself and don't divulge information concerning your personal life.

**PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20):** Children will be demanding if you let them. Injuries due to exhaustion or physical activities are likely unless you exercise caution. Don't be too quick to spend.

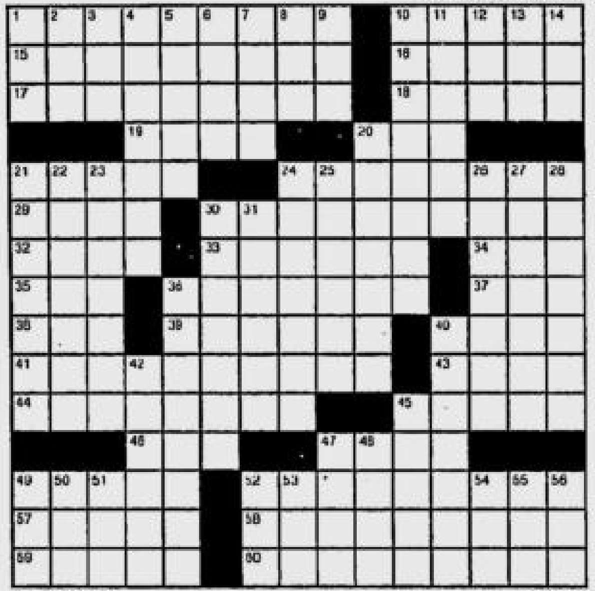
**Birthday Baby:** You are a terrific self-promoter, especially when it comes to getting ahead or moving in a direction that pleases you. You have the wherewithal to charm others and to be a leader.

## DAILY CROSSWORD

TMSPuzzles@aol.com

ACROSS
1 Still wrinkled
10 Above it all
15 Moon
16 1944 classic Preminger film
17 Without scrutiny
18 Attracted
19 Guns it in neutral
20 A ways away
21 Pre-surrealist painter
24 Talked with the enemy
29 Tan shade
30 Devotee
32 Palm-face encounter?
33 Fungus-alga composite
34 AAA in the U.K.
35 Sch. trainees
36 Submerging
37 Spring forward syst.
38 Small islet
39 Followed
40 Spanish health
41 Pregnancy thirds
43 Hungarian river
44 Fleers
45 Consumers
46 Tape-counter abbr.
47 Engrossed
49 Domicile
52 Capital of Laos
57 TLC provider
58 Amazon predators
59 Nerve parts
60 Put the finger on

DOWN
1 1996 Olympics host
2 __ "King" Cole
3 School org.
4 Get back into formation
5 DeGeneres or Greene
6 Czech or Slovak
7 Evildoings
8 & so forth
9 One of the Tweedles?
10 From the beginning
11 Bacall of "To Have and Have Not"
12 Possessive pronoun
13 Smeltery pile
14 Current craze
20 Quakers
21 Go over the same points
22 Cream-filled pastries
23 Extreme
24 Preserved cucumbers
25 More sore
26 Gridiron gain
27 "Lou Grant" star
28 Hospital employees
30 Wanted poster info
31 Limited
36 Informal dancers
40 Provencal verse
42 First
45 Writer Sinclair
47 Paper quantity
48 Noun-forming suffix
49 Rehan or Huxtable
50 Emulate Ali
51 Ear: pref.
52 Panel truck
53 One-million connection
54 Nav. rank
55 Highland denial
56 Superman's letter



By Ed Voile
Gillette, WY

12/2/00

PREVIOUS PUZZLE ANSWER

| | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| F | R | I | S | K | ■ | S | L | O | G | ■ | A | L | A | S |
| L | A | N | K | A | ■ | H | O | R | A | ■ | L | I | M | O |
| A | T | T | I | C | ■ | A | G | E | S | ■ | B | L | I | P |
| M | E | L | ■ | H | O | M | E | S | T | R | E | T | C | H |
| ■ | ■ | ■ | L | I | M | E | S | ■ | R | A | I | S | E | S |
| I | N | S | A | N | E | ■ | ■ | D | I | N | T | ■ | ■ | ■ |
| N | E | C | K | A | N | D | N | E | C | K | ■ | M | E | R |
| T | R | U | E | ■ | ■ | R | I | M | ■ | ■ | A | C | L | U |
| O | D | D | ■ | P | H | O | T | O | F | I | N | I | S | H |
| ■ | ■ | ■ | P | L | O | P | ■ | ■ | O | L | I | V | E | R |
| A | C | T | U | A | L | ■ | S | E | A | L | S | ■ | ■ | ■ |
| D | A | I | L | Y | D | O | U | B | L | E | ■ | I | T | S |
| M | I | L | L | ■ | I | R | I | S | ■ | G | E | T | U | P |
| A | N | T | E | ■ | N | A | T | E | ■ | A | M | E | B | A |
| N | E | S | T | ■ | G | L | E | N | ■ | L | U | M | E | N |

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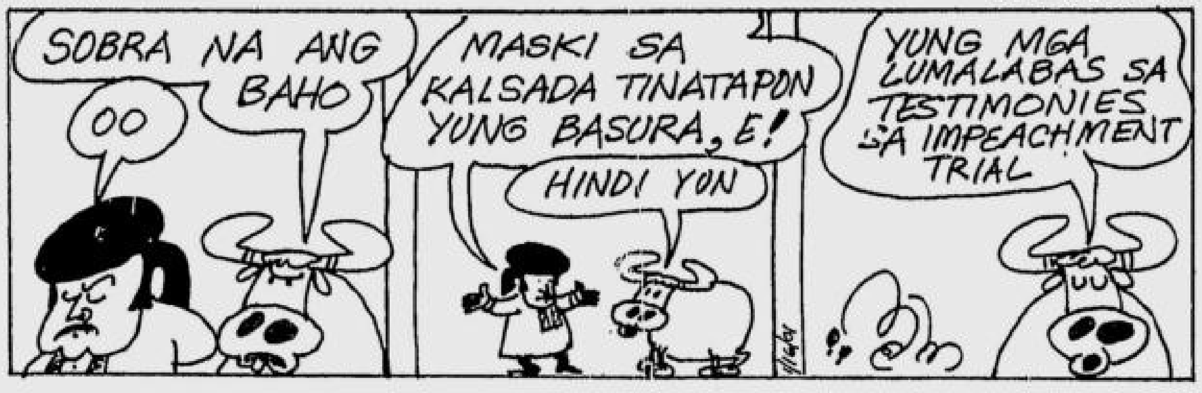
12/2/00

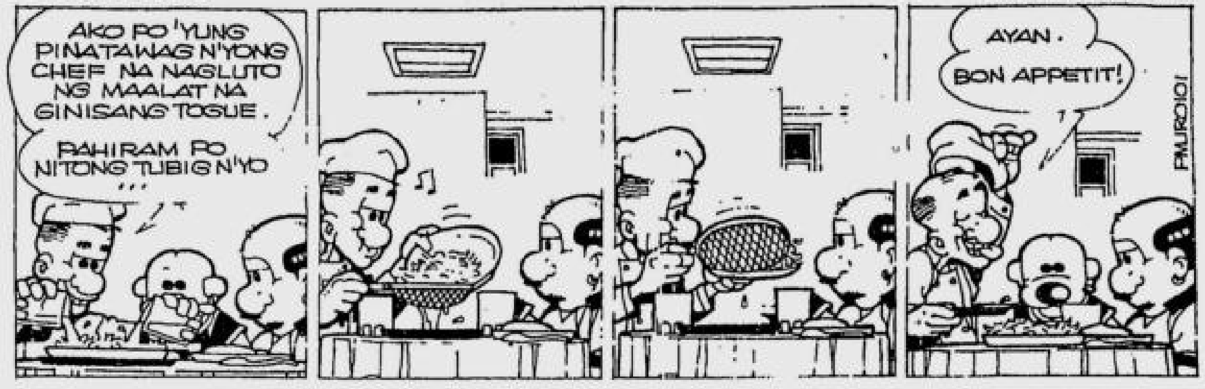
### A. LIPIN

BY JESS ABRERA


SOBRA NA ANG BAHO
OO
MASKI SA KALSADA TINATAPON YUNG BASURA, E!
HINDI YON
YUNG MGA LUMALABAS SA TESTIMONIES SA IMPEACHMENT TRIAL

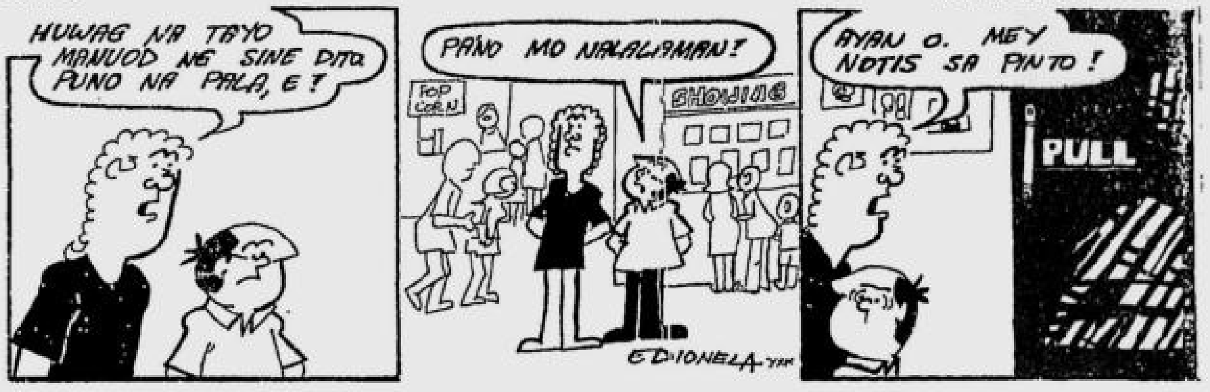
### PUGAD BABOY

BY P.M. JUNIOR


AKO PO 'YUNG PINATAWAG N'YONG CHEF NA NAGLUTO NG MAALAT NA GINISANG TOGUE.
PAHIRAM PO NITONG TUBIG N'YO ...
AYAN. BON APPETIT!
PMJR2001

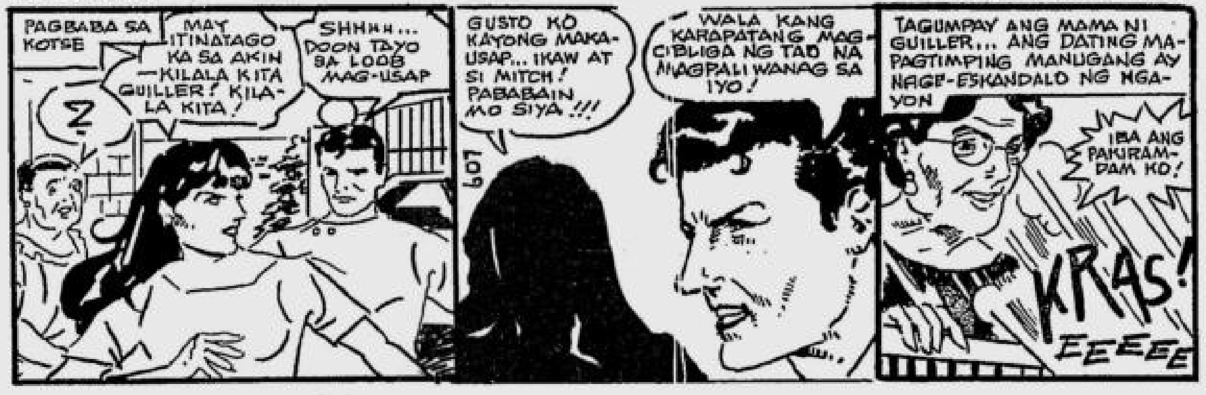
### SIMO

BY EDGAR DIONELA


HUWAG NA TAYO MANUOD NG SINE DITO PUNO NA PALA, E!
PA'NO MO NALALAMAN!
POP CORN
SHOWING
E.DIONELA
AYAN O. MEY NOTIS SA PINTO!
PULL

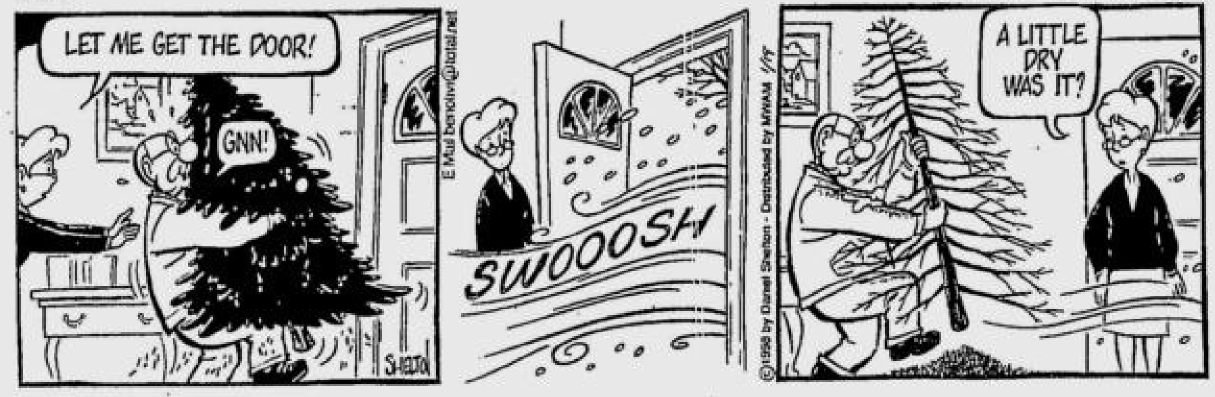
### KATREENA

BY JOY CONIENDO


PAGBABA SA KOTSE
MAY ITINATAGO KA SA AKIN —KILALA KITA GUILLER! KILALA KITA!
SHHHH... DOON TAYO SA LOOB MAG-USAP
Z
GUSTO KO KAYONG MAKAUSAP... IKAW AT SI MITCH! PABABAIN MO SIYA!!!
WALA KANG KARAPATANG MAGCIBLIGA NG TAO NA MAGPALIWANAG SA IYO!
TAGUMPAY ANG MAMA NI GUILLER... ANG DATING MAPAGTIMPING MANUGANG AY NAGP-ESKANDALO NG NGAYON
IBA ANG PAKIRAMDAM KO!
KRAS!
EEEEE

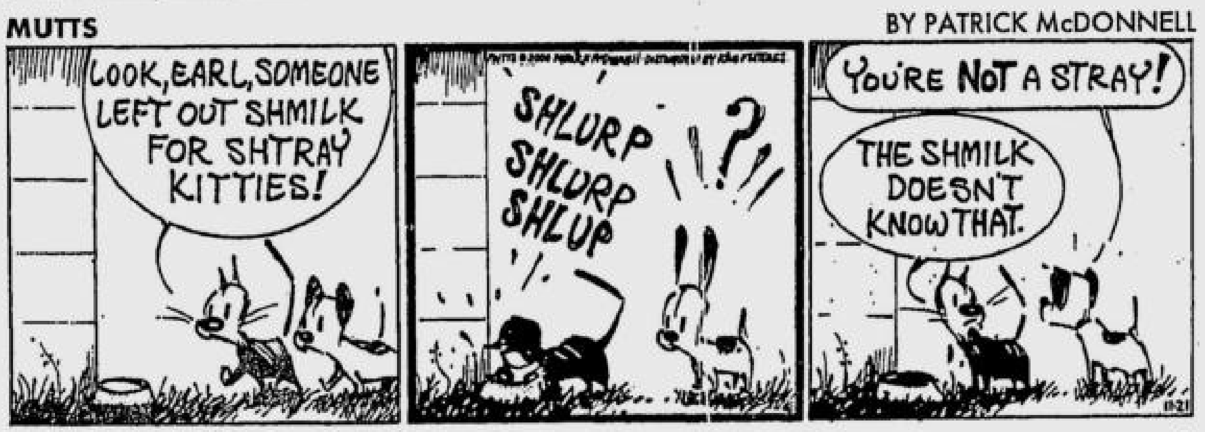
### BEN

BY DANIEL SHELTON


LET ME GET THE DOOR!
GNN!
SHELTON
SWOOOSH
A LITTLE DRY WAS IT?

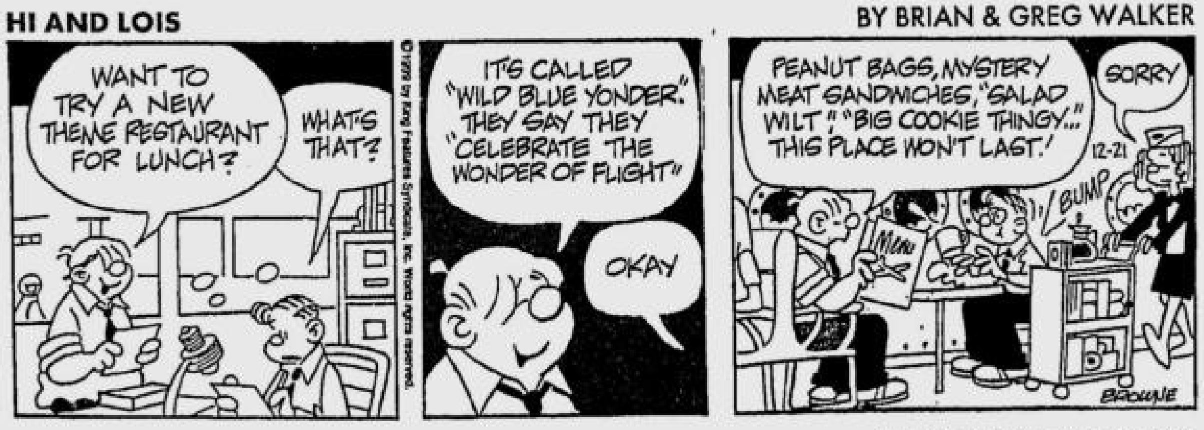
### MUTTS

BY PATRICK McDONNELL


LOOK, EARL, SOMEONE LEFT OUT SHMILK FOR SHTRAY KITTIES!
SHLURP SHLURP SHLUP
?
YOU'RE NOT A STRAY!
THE SHMILK DOESN'T KNOW THAT.
12-21

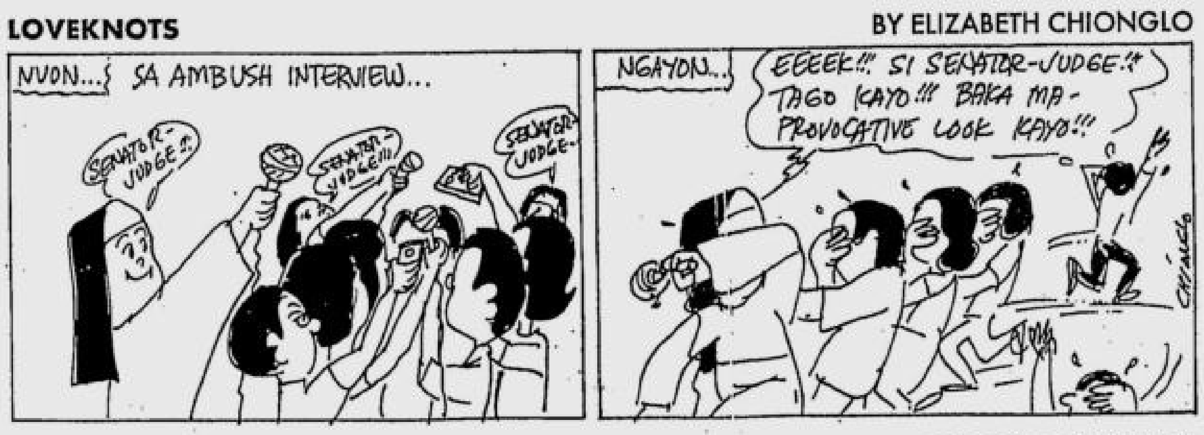
### HI AND LOIS

BY BRIAN & GREG WALKER


WANT TO TRY A NEW THEME RESTAURANT FOR LUNCH?
WHAT'S THAT?
IT'S CALLED "WILD BLUE YONDER." THEY SAY THEY "CELEBRATE THE WONDER OF FLIGHT"
OKAY
PEANUT BAGS, MYSTERY MEAT SANDWICHES, "SALAD WILT," "BIG COOKIE THINGY..." THIS PLACE WON'T LAST.
SORRY
BUMP
MENU
12-21
BROWNE

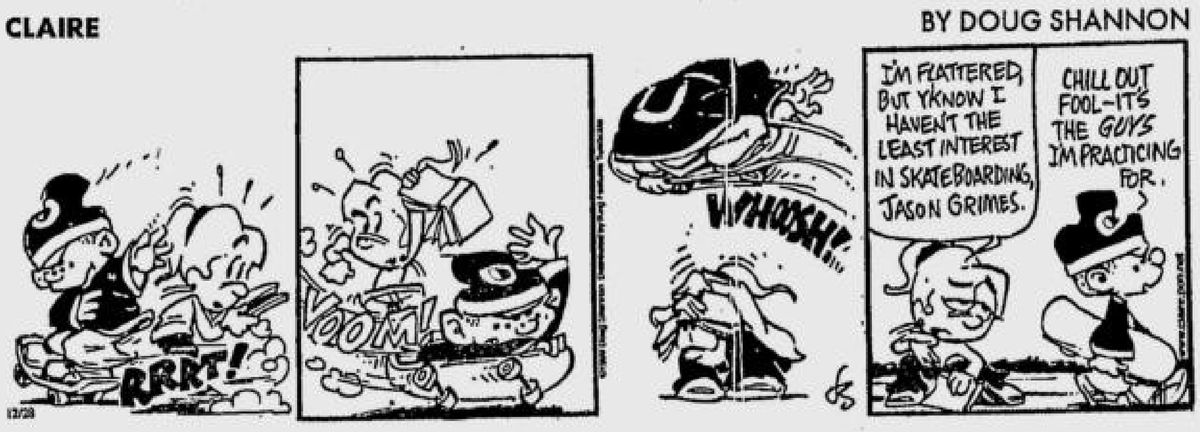
### LOVEKNOTS

BY ELIZABETH CHIONGLO


NUON... SA AMBUSH INTERVIEW...
SENATOR-JUDGE!!
SENATOR-JUDGE!!!
SENATOR-JUDGE...
NGAYON...
EEEEK!!! SI SENATOR-JUDGE!!! TAGO KAYO!!! BAKA MA-PROVOCATIVE LOOK KAYO!!!
CHIONGLO

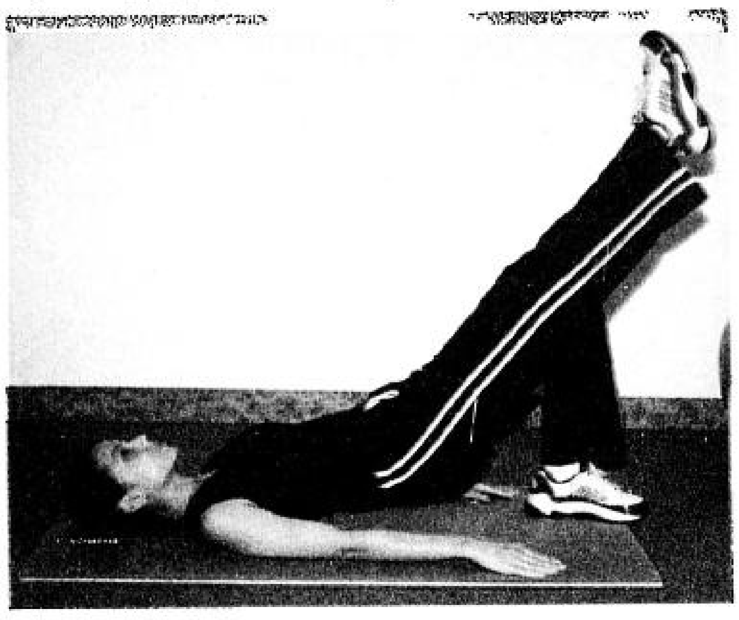
### CLAIRE

BY DOUG SHANNON


RRRT!
VOOM!
WHOOSH!
I'M FLATTERED, BUT Y'KNOW I HAVEN'T THE LEAST INTEREST IN SKATEBOARDING, JASON GRIMES.
CHILL OUT FOOL—IT'S THE GUYS I'M PRACTICING FOR.

EXERCISE OF THE WEEK

# *One-leg bridge*



STRENGTHENS the buttocks and hamstring (back of the thighs of the bent leg), front of the thighs of the straight leg, abdominal muscles (acting as stabilizers).

**Exercise technique:**

1. Lie down with one leg bent, foot flat on the floor, the other leg straight.

2. Tighten abdominals and lift straight leg an inch or two off the floor. Body weight will now be carried by the bent leg.

3. Push hips up by pressing hard on the floor with the foot of the bent leg and by squeezing the buttocks and back of the thighs. Do not lift the straight leg but allow it to be pulled up together with the hips.

4. Hold for eight slow counts. Breathe continuously.

5. Slowly lower to the floor. Repeat on the other leg.

**Performance tips:**

1. This is an advanced exercise. You can start out by bending both knees and keeping both feet flat on the floor. As you get stronger, do it with one leg straight.

2. To make the exercise a little easier, hold the straight leg directly above the hips instead of in line with the other knee.

3. Be sure to tighten abdominals before you even lift the straight leg a few inches off the floor. Continue to maintain the tightness of the abs all throughout the exercise. Do not allow the lower back to sag.

4. Do not hold your breath while holding the position for eight counts.

**Repetitions:**

Holding the positions for eight slow counts on each leg makes one set. Do four to six sets.

# Gym bullies

(From page C4)

tracting.

It is true that most people go to a gym because they like working out with other people around but they also want to spend their exercise time efficiently. If you keep on chattering away to the person beside you while doing weights, you are disturbing them. If your exercise *barkada* are always loudly laughing and talking, you are "accidentally" bullying other people to stop exercising at that time. I know some people who have had to transfer to other time slots or even other gyms just to escape the loud cackles of certain groups (usually women).

### Fighting back

There are several ways to fight gym bullies to make your exercise environment pleasant once again. Mind you, I am not saying these "solutions" are easy to do. There is always some discomfort in confrontation.

The fastest way to settle things is to complain to the gym staff about the situation. Of course, this only works if the staff members are courageous enough to do something about it. Ironically, they could be even more scared of these bullies than you are.

The second way is to approach the bully or bullies and explain how their behavior is upsetting you. This method is only for the brave of heart because you never know how the other party or parties will react. However, for those fearless enough, you usually discover that bullies back off when they realize that you won't allow them to step on you. Remember Eleanor Roosevelt who said that no one can make you feel inferior unless you give them permission to do so?

The third is to exercise with your own group. There usually will be a silent mutual respect agreement reached. The fourth is to admit defeat and change time slots or change gym. This is what happened to the lady who told me her story last week. She couldn't exercise at any other time and it was obvious that the staff was allowing those members to terrorize everyone else.

*Visit www.tinajuanfitness.com for past articles or exercises.*

# Beyond what eyes can see

**INNER AWARENESS**

*Jaime T. Licauco*

CLAIRVOYANCE is the power or ability to see something beyond one's physical sense of sight. For example, describing accurately the contents of a sealed box is a form of clairvoyance. Another is being able to see a ghost or spirit which cannot be seen by one's physical sense of sight.

Still another example is "remote viewing" which is sometimes known as "traveling clairvoyance." This refers to the proven ability most human beings possess—that of being able to describe a place miles away, one that another person is visiting at the moment, or at least one known personally to that individual.

To me, one of the most intriguing and fascinating examples of clairvoyant perception is a psychic's ability or power to see and describe accurately something that is clearly hidden from his or her view and may even be unknown to the owner of the object himself or herself.

Allow me to cite an interesting case which happened only recently. Three attractive and vivacious career women from Makati visited me at my office one afternoon. A very highly developed clairvoyant named Linda was with me at the time.

When I introduced the three women to the psychic and told them that she makes psychic readings, they all said they were not interested in having a reading by a psychic. I think Linda got a bit challenged by the remark. So she said, just moments after the women had entered my office and before they could all sit down, "Why don't I just give you a sample?"

Linda asked each of them to write down their full names, including their middle or maiden names. As she looked at each name, she gave a few candid remarks about their character or personality, which hit the mark on center, and they all laughed. She even gave a detail about Norma (not her real name) having won a beauty contest, which the other two women didn't know about. They were hooked, especially after Linda told Norma, "You have a mole in there," and she pointed to her genital area.

"Do you?" I asked Norma, just to confirm what the psychic had said.

"I don't know," she replied. "I don't examine or look at that part of my body closely."

The readings Linda gave of the two other women were also extremely accurate, according to them. Then we all parted ways.

After the holiday season, I visited Norma, who is a branch manager of a big bank located in Makati. I was thinking of purchasing some dollars from her. It was then that Norma told me that she was shocked to learn that Linda was very accurate when she had told her about her mole between her legs.

"It took me three days before I decided to really find out if what she said about my mole there was correct. I examined it and found the mole all right. I never knew that. Not even my husband knows that. And the location of the mole is not readily seen. One really has to look for it very closely to see it."

Although this is not exactly a unique ability of this particular psychic (for example, many of my ESP students are able to see moles, warts and scars in a partner's body which are hidden from view during an exercise on psychic reading), still Linda's quick pinpointing of the secret mole unknown to the woman herself was quite remarkable.

In my ESP class, the students have to be guided into an altered state of consciousness and given specific step-by-step instructions before they could perform this feat. Linda was able to do it automatically and without any preparation. It was as if she could literally see with her naked eye any mark on another person's skin, although completely hidden from view.

Is there any practical value to this ability? Of course, yes. One can use this ability to find missing objects and even missing persons. In the Soviet Union and even in the United States, this ability has been used in military intelligence work or espionage.

This ability can also be used to diagnose the illness of another person without the use of medical instruments. It can save countless lives. And the good news is ordinary people can be trained easily to develop the ability to read another person psychically or clairvoyantly. It is no longer a mystery. It is a scientific fact.

*Address letters to this column to Rm 308 Prince Plaza I, 106 Legaspi St., Greenbelt, Makati City or e-mail jlicauco@geocities.com. Visit www.angelfine.com/journal/licauco for more details. Listen to my dzMM radio program every Sunday 6-8 p.m.*

CHINA PLAZA MA
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MOTOROLA

**AT THE MOTOROLA GP308 MINI 4WD RACE AT THE CHINA PLAZA MALL IN MANILA.** Motorola executive Maeyeth Cayabyab poses with third place winner Mon Christ, first place winner Leonardo Cabial and second place winner Arnold Alabado.

# Mini four-wheel cars vie in grand prix

THE TAMIYA craze raged on at the Motorola GP308 Mini 4WD Grand Prix held recently at the China Plaza Mall in Manila. The event was organized by Motorola's Commercial, Government and Industrial Solutions Sector (CGISS) to foster goodwill among customers and dealers of Motorola's two-way radio products and systems solutions.

Hobbyists of different ages saw red-hot track action in an exciting race for the grand prix championship. Over 50 enthusiasts joined the competition and more spectators watched the mini race cars, all colorfully decked out and sporting Motorola logos, try to out-zoom the others on the race track circuit.

In the end, three contestants prevailed. On hand to award the prizes were Motorola's Mimmie Ong, CGISS sales manager; Maeyeth Cayabyab, CGISS account manager, and Julie Lamera, corporate communications and public affairs specialist.

Mon Christ, an 11-year-old grade school student, emerged as the third prize winner and Arnold Alabado took second place honors. Each was awarded prize package that included an elegant glass trophy.

Leonardo Cabial entered the competition with a powerful red mini 4WD that boosted him to first place. He took home the grand prize of one set of Motorola GP308 plus a trophy.

"My nephew (third placer Christ) and I came here just to enjoy a thrilling race. We both did not expect to win," said Cabial.

The event was participated in by young and old alike. Combos of father and son brought their mini four-wheel Tamiya cars and had fun while competing.

Awards were also given to the five best dressed cars.

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# Whitewater chargers

(From page C1)

of its world-class offerings.

Aside from AEPI, there are three other groups engaged in such outdoor activities—two are based in the south and the other one is in Kalinga.

Anton, AEPI's chief operating officer, has been residing in Cagayan and paddling rivers with his brother since 1983. That was also when he met Val and Didi Camara of the Philippine Kayaking Association and invited them to see Cagayan. After four months, they set up AEPI.

The company hopes that the Department of Tourism will approve its curriculum to be the standard for river guides in the country.

**GREG** Findley (right) tests the skills of Anton Carag Jr. (second from left) and his men by turning over the raft.

"Whitewater rafting is not a memorization of rapids. You deal with how water moves and behaves. It's sort of reading how to get into the waves and working with that," says Bridget who has been leading wilderness expeditions since she was 15.

AEPI offers a two-day package tour at P5,000, which includes spelunking, whitewater kayaking and a rafting trip of two to four hours. There's also a five-day package which includes an expedition to Cagayan River and camping, which, Anton says, is "not for the normal Manileño who is used to having access to a bathroom."

Compared to diving, whose top-of-the-line gear will cost an enthusiast a hundred thousand, rafting is definitely a cheaper water activity. "We provide you with all the gear and equipment and all you have to do is show up. And I believe that shelling out a certain amount of money for an experience of a lifetime is worth it," Anton adds.

### Scary yet exciting

Greg, Bridget and Anton maintain that the thrill outweighs the risks. They describe the experience as one of the most elating feelings. It's more emotional than physical. Those who have gone through it, especially the novices, wear a glowing grin that reflects a mix of elation and relief.

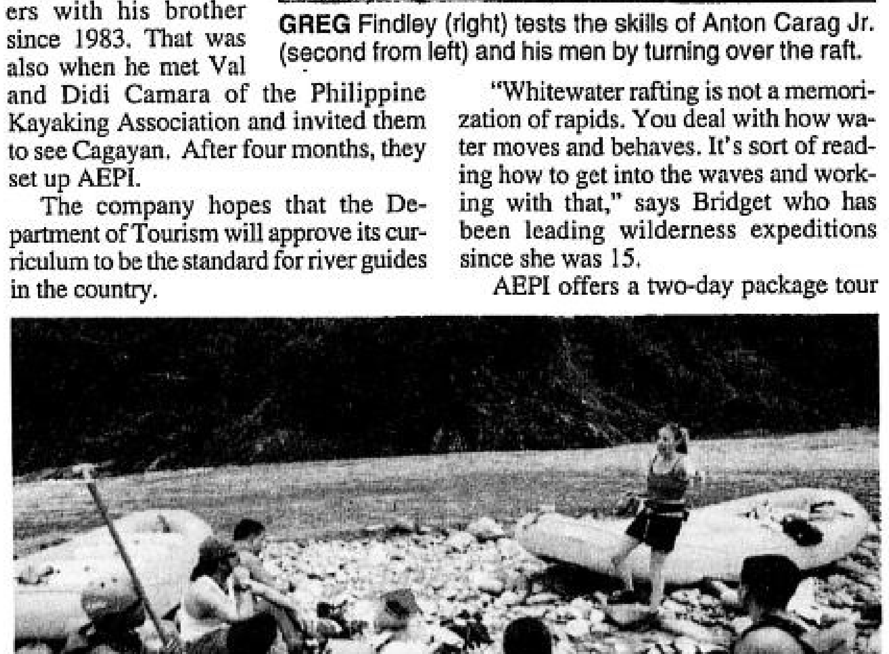
Since rafting requires no special skill, the challenge is strictly psychological. With patience and practice, almost anyone can learn to handle a raft and the rapids.

"One must have a sense of adventure and a desire to understand how the water works. You must not be afraid of the water and be willing to take risks," Bridget says.

And even if you don't know how to swim, you can still indulge in rafting. "Anyway, you're given a life jacket and the rafting guides always keep an eye on those who cannot swim. And before they go into the water, passengers are briefed on safety measures," Greg adds. "Rafting is a nice bonding experience for they learn how to paddle together and work as a team."

A topnotch river guide with over 14 years of commercial rafting experience and 10 years of international experience,

WHITEWATER/ p.C4



**BRIDGET** Findley (standing) briefs a class on rafting's safety measures before charging into the river.

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# Gym bullies

**WELL AND GOOD**

*Tina Aboitiz Juan*

Loud-mouthed overbearing fitness buffs can sometimes intimidate their gym mates, but there are ways to ward them off

IT can be lonely to exercise alone. That's why many people choose to join a gym or aerobics class for the social bonding and camaraderie. However, being with other people has its downside, too. While the majority of people are nice and friendly, somewhere along the way, you are bound to meet a gym bully. Due to the aggressive and combative personalities of some people, a lot of gyms have a resident bully or two. The degree of bullying done depends on how the gym management can tone down the intimidator or how much the other members fight back to keep the bully in his or her place.

These gym bullies come in many forms. There are those who only act like ruffians when they are together in a group, while others operate alone. There are others who insist on having their way only when they are in a bad mood. There are people who have learned the art of bullying politely and there are those who don't even realize they are intimidating others.

### Mob mentality

Last week, someone told me the reason she stopped going to her aerobics class was because her "matronic" classmates were always talking during class and this distracted her from focusing on her workout. They would go in and out of the class anytime they felt like it. She said this loud-mouthed group acted like they "owned" the place. One matron even elbowed her because she had apparently taken the woman's favorite spot in class.

This is not the first time I have heard of mob rule happening in a gym. The longer people are members of a gym, the more familiar they become. You know what happens. It's that old "familiarity breeds contempt" thing. Their true nature starts to come out. There is usually a ringleader who sets the tone for the bullying. Then, there is a second-in-command followed by the group members.

As intimidating as these group bullies are, they are usually meek and mild when separated from their *barkada*. It's a mob mentality thing. When they are with their friends, they are emboldened to act like obnoxious spoiled brats. Away from them, they lose their bluster.

### Lone wolves

It is rare to meet a lone wolf bully because one would have to have a very strong, overpowering personality to intimidate everyone else by oneself. However, if the person is loud enough, arrogant enough or powerful enough, it is possible for this to happen. This type of person will growl at you to get off his or her favorite treadmill or will snatch away the last exercise mat just as you are reaching for it. He will insist on playing his music even if he knows the majority of people exercising at that moment will probably not appreciate his choice. She will insist on having a bodyguard follow her around as she works out even if the rules say "no bodyguards in the gym."

### Moody bullies

These people are sort of Jekyll-and-Hyde bullies. They only do their bullying when they are in a bad mood. Otherwise, they can actually be sweet people. I remember an aerobics classmate like this years ago. When she was in a bad mood, watch out. She would snarl at you if she felt you were invading her private space during aerobics or she would complain loudly about the teacher. When she was in a good mood, she would actually smile while exercising and you could hear her humming along to the music. I was much younger then so I learned to stay far away when she had a sour face and to relax when it looked like she had a good day. If I had known her today, I would not have let her moods affect my workout or me.

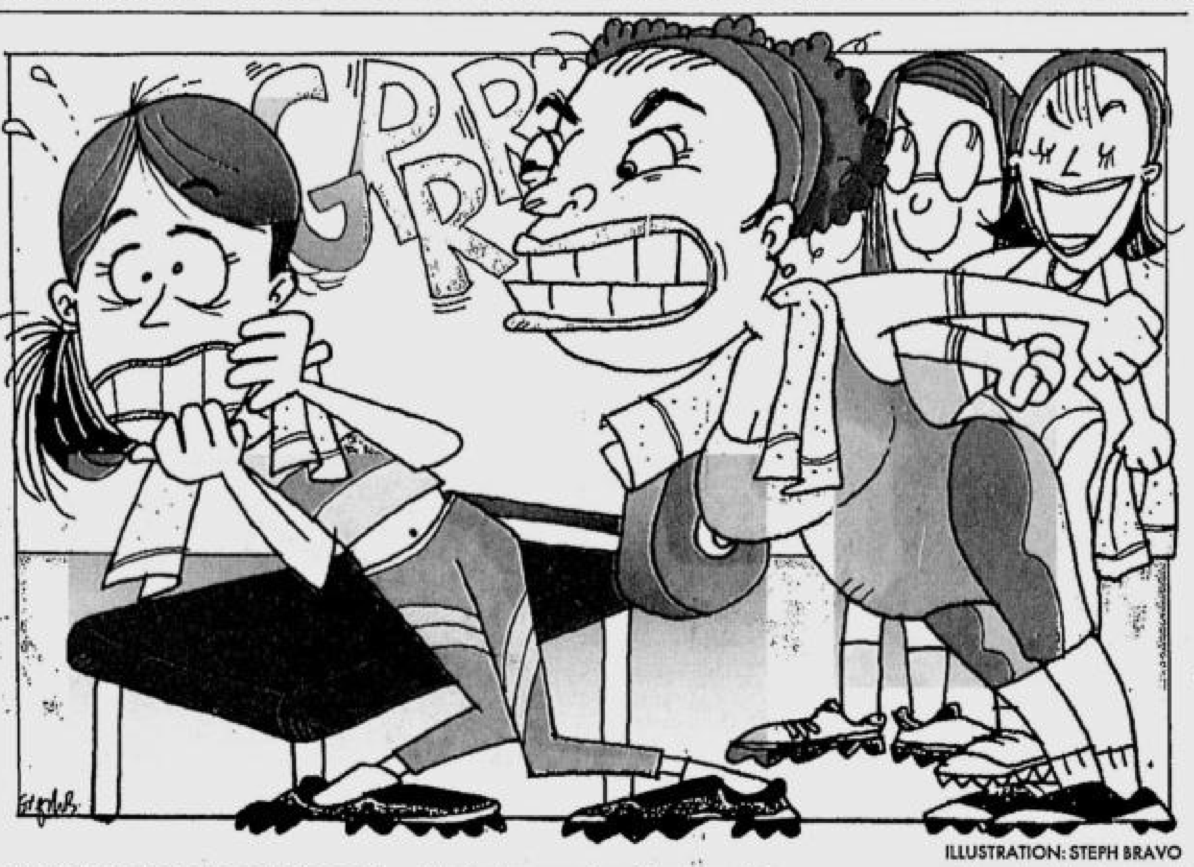

ILLUSTRATION: STEPH BRAVO

### 'Nice' bullies

It seems paradoxical but yes, it is possible for someone to be a "nice" bully. To bully someone else is to apply pressure in whatever manner to get your own way. Well, these people do it with niceness. They will "nicely" beg you to reserve a spot in the aerobics room when this is clearly against the rules. They will "nicely" pressure the front desk personnel to let them workout even if they have "forgotten" to pay their dues in two months. They are probably the types who nicely applied pressure on high school classmates to allow them to copy the answers on a test.

### Accidental bullies

This is the how-not-to-be-a-bully section because you can be a bully without realizing it. Let's assume you are a well-built man with large muscles and you sit down on the leg extension machine to rest. Now let's assume there is a thin young guy who is new to working out who wants to use that very machine. What do you think are the chances that he will ask you if he can use the machine? Nil to nothing. The poor guy will probably just wait until you are good and ready to get off your bottom. You didn't mean to intimidate him but you did.

Let's look at another example—an advanced aerobics exerciser who insists on joining a class of less fit participants because he or she likes the time slot. This person does all kinds of fancy moves that are totally different from what the teacher and the rest of the class is doing. Not only that, the person refuses to stay at the back of the class, but instead likes to stay in front. This person is being an accidental bully because he or she is disruptive and dis-

GYM/ p.C3

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## Whitewater chargers

(From page C3)

Greg has been globetrotting since he was 5. He was an expedition member of the first descent of Ethiopia's Tekeze River. But what he finds a real challenge is the Zambezi River in Africa. "It starts at the base of Victoria Falls, which is 350 ft high and a mile wide. Down below the waterfall, the river is in a narrow gorge with pounding whitewaters. Most mini boats flip there. And what's exciting is to be followed by a 17-ft crocodile."

Bridget, the first American woman to row Peru's Tambopata River through the western Amazon Basin in 1999, also finds the Zambezi the most difficult river she has negotiated. "But there are other challenges as well. Like guiding in Ethiopia's powerful waters and dealing with lions, cobras and hippos in campsites."

On the other hand, Anton says that the challenge of whitewater rafting lies in "knowing that you have passengers whose safety is in your hands."

Drawn to water by the same magnet that makes climbers scale heights, Greg, Bridget and Anton have developed a deep love and understanding of rivers and nature, and a passionate interest in culture and the human experience.

"It's a way to see the world and meet different people. Working on rivers gives you a lot of freedom to be yourself and enjoy the company of others. Feeling the surge of the river is feeling the surge of life," Bridget says.

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